LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION

¶1 Demotic is the name applied to both a script and a stage in the development of the Egyptian language. The stage of the language called Demotic shows affinities with both Late Egyptian, its predecessor, and Coptic, its successor. It was presumably much closer to the spoken language, especially when it first came into use, than was the archaic "classical" language preserved in religious texts and hieroglyphic inscriptions. The Demotic script is the most cursive one developed by the Egyptians. It was first used under Psammetichus I (ca. 650 B.C.), early in the Twenty-sixth, or Saite, Dynasty. By the end of that dynasty, Demotic had become the standard script for business and everyday affairs. By the Ptolemaic period Demotic was also the script in which literary compositions were written. The latest Demotic inscription, from Philae, dates from the middle of the fifth century of our era. During this 1,000-year time span Demotic was not a unity. There were differences, often minor but still evident, in script, vocabulary, morphology, and/or syntax between different geographical sections of the country, between different chronological periods (Demotic is usually subdivided into three time periods: early [Saite and Persian], Ptolemaic, and Roman), and between different types of texts. Among the latter are business and legal documents, private letters, religious, scientific, and medical and magical texts, mummy tags, funerary and administrative stelae (e.g., the so-called "trilingual" decrees), and literary texts, including both wisdom texts and stories. Even within these subdivisions, the script varies noticeably from scribe to scribe, as with modern handwriting.

¶2 The basic reference works are *Demotische Grammatik*, by Wilhelm Spiegelberg (1925), and *Demotisches Glossar*, by W. Erichsen (1954); a supplement to the latter will appear through the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago. These lessons are intended to give a person with some knowledge of Late Egyptian and Coptic an introduction to Demotic, including basic knowledge of Demotic grammar and an introduction to the script. They are based on the Ptolemaic period manuscript of the "Instructions of ʿOnchsheshonqy" (P. British Museum 10508), published by S. R. K. Glanville (1955), because the script is fairly clear and legible and because the text involves both straight historical narrative passages and "literary" passages (i.e., the collection of aphorisms constituting the actual instructions).[1] The grammatical summary presented here is limited to the basic elements. Minor details and exceptions are ignored. The student should consult Spiegelberg's *Demotische Grammatik* for such. Obviously the student must continue after this brief introduction to familiarize himself with the other handwritings and with other types of texts, especially the large corpus of legal texts.

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[1]There are several important translations and studies of ʿOnchsheshonqy; see the bibliography. ʿOnchsheshonqy was also one of the four basic texts on which Johnson's study (1976) of the Demotic verbal system was based.

¶3 The Demotic script is an abbreviated development of hieratic; like hieratic, it was written exclusively from right to left. The script in early Demotic texts can often be transcribed into the hieratic from which the Demotic developed (e.g., < < *rsy* 'south'). But by the Ptolemaic period the Demotic script was developing on its own, and the attempt to assign hieratic, and from the hieratic hieroglyphic, equivalents of words produces numerous artificial hieratic and hieroglyphic forms. Thus these lessons concentrate on the Demotic script itself, rather than on any real or hypothetical origin or contemporary hieroglyphic equivalent.

¶4 Demotic not only contained both phonetic signs and determinatives, but in addition many of the signs were ligatures of two or more such signs. Thus, even more than in earlier stages of the language, words were learned as units by the Egyptian scribe and must be so learned by the modern student. Every scribe had quite distinctive handwriting and there may be major differences between the ways two different scribes wrote the same sign. In these lessons the student will be exposed to just one system, that of the scribe of ʿOnchsheshonqy, so that he can concentrate on grammar. After this, the major problem which remains in Demotic is to learn to read all the various scripts and handwritings.

ALPHABET

¶5 Roman period texts used more "alphabetic" spellings than did the texts from the earlier periods. At all periods, however, the "alphabetic" signs were used; they should be memorized immediately. Note that some letters have different forms when used as the first letter in a word (initial) than when used elsewhere in the word (medial, final). Note also the three new transliterations used in Demotic: < *h̭*; < *ṯ̭*; < *e*.[2]

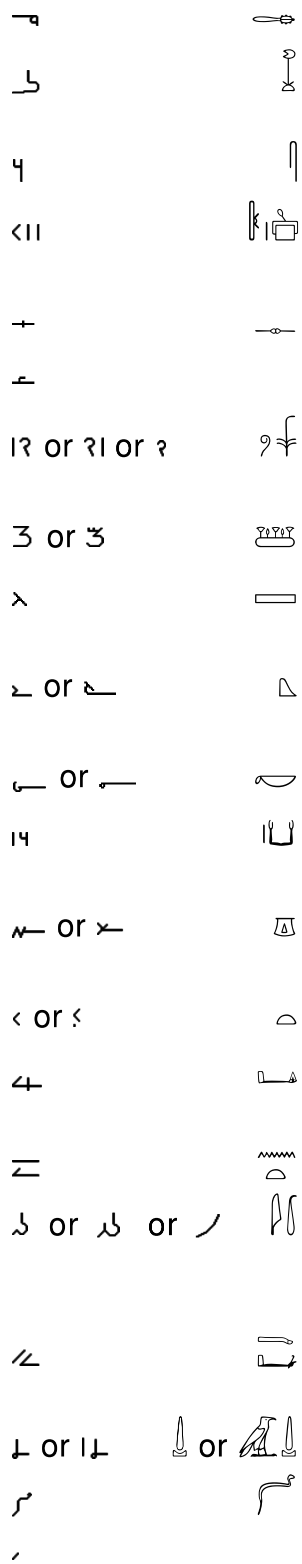
	DEMOTIC	DERIVATION	REMARKS
ꜣ			never word-initial
			rarely word-final
ỉ	or		word initial only; internal *ỉ* is
e			prothetic *ỉ* or internal *e*; early Demotic = *ỉ*
ʿ			usually with horizontal signs
	or		usually with vertical signs
y			

[2] To be distinguished from grammatical used in various tense auxiliaries and as the circumstantial converter; this grammatical form is transliterated *ỉw*. Note that the Demotic forms given in the chart (and all forms throughout these lessons given in "type" rather than scan) are standardized forms only.

¶5 Alphabet (*cont.*)

	DEMOTIC	DERIVATION	REMARKS
w			initial, consonantal
			medial or final
			as 3 pl. suffix pn. and plural indicator with nouns
b			no distinction in usage
			sometimes ligatured (e.g., *bꜥy* 'to rage', p. 24)
p			generally early
			note with space filler dot
f			head on line
			also with space filler dot, head above line
m	or		no distinction in usage
n	or		often unwritten as preposition (< *m*) or genitive; also used alphabetically
			normal form when not above or below another sign; never for preposition or genitive
r	or		for ⲉ, prothetic *ỉ*, preposition *r*
	or		same usage
			normal form of consonant
l			Erichsen (1954), *Demotisches Glossar*, separates *r* and *l* words; one has to look under both spellings unless the word is Fayumic
h			often confused with *ḥ*
ḥ			no distinction in usage
			note also with space filler dot
			in < *ḥnꜥ*
ḫ			ϩ or ϣ (S, A2, F); ϧ or ϣ (B); ⳉ (A)
ẖ			ϣ (S, A2, F, B); ⳉ (A)

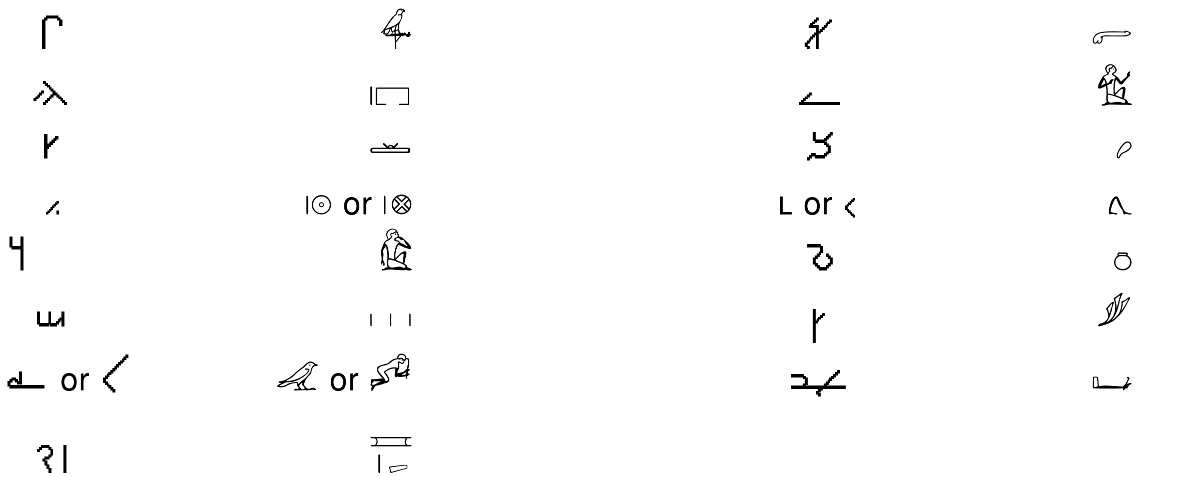
¶5 Alphabet (*cont.*)



	DEMOTIC	DERIVATION	REMARKS
ẖ			above or below another sign
			normal alphabetic form: ϩ (S, A², L); ϧ (B); ⳉ (A)
s			most common
			especially in names, Greek words; not word-initial in Egyptian words
			under another sign
			over another sign
			as 3 f. s. suffix pn., 3 m. and f. s. dependent pn.
š			more common
			over or under another sign
q			
k			often under line, especially as 2 m. s. suffix pn.
			for old *kꜣ*; often for *q* in late texts
g			much confusion among *q*-*k*-*g*
t			often for historical *d*
			less frequent
d			*n* + *t* > *d* in foreign words
ṱ			sometimes for historical *ṯ*; especially common in pronominal form of nouns, including infinitives
ṯ			the verb *ṯ* 'to take'; occasionally as phonetic
ḏ			no distinction in usage; sometimes for historical *ṯ*
			rare
			in *ḏ* 'to say'

¶6 Determinatives which were used commonly should also be learned quickly. The following occur several times in the vocabulary presented in the early lessons:

DEMOTIC HIEROGLYPH DEMOTIC HIEROGLYPH



See Ola el-Aguizy (1998), *A Palaeographical Study of Demotic Papyri in the Cairo Museum from the Reign of King Taharka to the End of the Ptolemaic Period*.

¶7 A word on transliteration. The system adopted by Demotists at the International Congress of Egyptologists in 1979 is intended to record within a consistent, albeit artificial, system what the Demotic scribe actually wrote. It is based on the transliteration of earlier periods of the Egyptian language, especially Middle Egyptian. Those signs used historically, indicating simply that the same sign occurred in earlier spellings of the word, are transliterated historically (e.g., *sḏm* 'to hear'). Those words or those parts of words written with alphabetic (uniliteral) signs are transliterated letter for letter into the modern alphabet. But most Demotic words were written wholly or partially with ligatures. These ligatures cannot be broken down into simple combinations of Demotic signs but derive from earlier, less cursive, scripts where the elements are not ligatured. Such ligatures are transliterated historically, the way the corresponding Middle Egyptian word or word-part is transliterated, except that the phonetic inventory used is that identified within the Demotic alphabetic signs (e.g., *d* is not distinguished from *t*, although *ṯ* and *ḏ* are; e.g., *mt.t* < *md.t* 'thing' but *ḏr.t* 'hand'). When a scribe combined alphabetic signs with ligatures, the evidence of the alphabetic signs is given precedence over the ligatures (e.g., *sṯ̭* < *sṯꜣ* 'to turn [away]'). A section on transliteration is included in the bibliography because of the number of recent discussions concerning this subject.

¶8 Certain punctuation conventions are used. If, in a word, any part of the word, excluding phonetic complements but including the feminine *t* and plural stroke, is written after the determinative, a dot is used to indicate the position of the determinative (e.g., *sṯ̭* 'to turn [away]' but *ḏr.ṯ̭⸗f* 'his hand'). Despite the fact that the plural stroke is written after the feminine *t*, this combination is transliterated *.wt*. Diagonal parallel lines are used to connect a suffix pronoun to the preceding

pronominal form on which it depends (be it a verb, noun, or preposition [e.g., *ḏr.ṯ̭≠f* 'his hand']). Compounds are connected by a hyphen, as are such grammatical elements as the *r* of the past tense relative clause.

SENTENCE TYPES

¶9 There were at most two basic sentence types in Demotic: "nominal" sentences, in which both the "subject" and "predicate" are nominals (nouns, pronouns, noun phrases or clauses), and "verbal" sentences. The rules for word order in nominal sentences will be discussed in lesson 2. In verbal sentences the following word order is always found (elements in parentheses are optional):

(SM) verb nominal$_{\text{subject}}$ (nominal$_{\text{object}}$) (adverb[ial][s])

A sentence marker (SM) was an optional particle affecting the meaning or the syntactical status of the entire following clause (e.g., marking a clause as circumstantial). The optional adverbials could range from simple adverbs through prepositional phrases (including the indirect object) to complete subordinate clauses (e.g., indicating time, purpose, etc.). Transitive verbs might have a direct object; intransitive verbs, by definition, could not. The combination verb plus nominal subject constitutes what is called a *sḏm≠f*. There were, presumably, morphological differences between different tenses of *sḏm≠f*s although such differences appear in the writing extremely rarely. The other elements which one tends to think of as verbs, i.e., the infinitive and qualitative (or, old perfective), are not actually verbal forms. The infinitive was a noun form and might be used anywhere a noun may be used. The qualitative was actually an adverbial form of the verb which might be used only in present tense sentences.

¶10 If the verb in the main clause was the verb "to be," this verb was written in those present tense sentences with an indefinite noun subject (including sentences stating existence) (see E1,[3] E2) and in all past tense sentences (E3). However, in all future tense sentences and those present tense sentences whose subject was some nominal other than an indefinite noun, the verb "to be" was not actually written in the sentence (E4, E5). In all of these cases except "existence clauses" (E1), there was an infinitive (derived historically from preposition plus infinitive and therefore capable of filling the adverbial position), a qualitative, a prepositional phrase, or a "pure" adverb in the adverbial position in the sentence which, with the omission of the verb "to be," appears to be the predicate (E2, the qualitative *mwṯ̭* 'is dead'; E4, the preposition *r* plus infinitive *sḏm* 'will hear'; E5, the qualitative *mwṯ̭* 'is dead'). Such sentences have traditionally been called sentences with "adverbial predicates" but, since they otherwise follow all the rules for verbal sentences and because they cannot be divorced from those present and past tense sentences where the verb "to be" is written (E2 and E3), they must actually be seen as a subset of verbal

[3] E stands for "example"; the * marks artificial examples composed to illustrate a point.

sentences. Discussion of all types of verbal sentences, and numerous examples, will be found in the following lessons.

E1: **wn wˁ rmṯ* 'A man exists/there is a man.'

E2: **wn wˁ rmṯ mwṱ* 'A man is dead.'

E3: **wn-nꜣw pꜣ rmṯ n pꜣ ˁ(.wy)* 'The man was in the house.'
(*wn-nꜣw* is the past tense form of the verb "to be")

E4: **ỉw pꜣ rmṯ r sḏm nꜣy⸗y mt.wt* 'The man will hear my words.'

E5: **pꜣ rmṯ mwṱ* 'The man is dead.'

DEFINITIONS

¶11 The following terms will be used in these lessons:

Determiner: definite, indefinite, demonstrative, or possessive article
suffix pronoun
direct genitive
"definite" *nb* 'all, every'

N.B. Noun + *nb* has two possible meanings:

1) "definite," in which case *nb* corresponds to English 'all, every' and is frequently reinforced with *ḏr⸗* 'all, every' (on which, see below, ¶56 and E85–86)
2) "indefinite," in which case *nb* corresponds to English 'any' and is frequently reinforced with *n pꜣ tꜣ* 'at all' (lit., 'of the earth') (see, e.g., E117, ¶69)

Undefined/undetermined: a simple noun without any determiner

Indefinite: an undefined noun or a noun with the indefinite article or indefinite *nb*

Defined/determined: a noun with any determiner

Definite: a noun with any determiner other than the indefinite article

Pronominal: form of a noun, infinitive, or preposition to which a suffix pronoun is attached

Construct: form of a noun, infinitive, or preposition to which a(nother) noun is suffixed

Absolute: form of a noun, infinitive, or preposition to which neither a suffix pronoun nor a(nother) noun is suffixed

N.B. In citing paradigms, the forms given in square brackets do not occur in ˁOnchsheshonqy; a standardized form has been supplied by comparison with other texts.

N.B. The orthography of all vocabulary items given is that of ˁOnchsheshonqy. In a few cases where a very common word is written in an unusual form in ˁOnchsheshonqy, a more common writing of the word is given in brackets, for future reference.

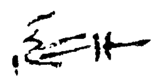
N.B. All citations of phrases, clauses, and sentences in lessons 2–11 are taken from ʿOnchsheshonqy unless otherwise noted; all are accompanied by a column and line reference where the example may be found. If there is more than one example of the phrase or clause in question, only one column and line reference is given. The original text of ʿOnchsheshonqy has suffered some damage. There are occasional holes; more frequently, bits of ink have flaked off the papyrus, leaving behind a gap or traces which are misleading. Since it is more difficult for the beginning student to learn from broken or damaged words or passages, even when marked as such by brackets, the actual Demotic presented in these lessons is frequently a composite taken from several places in the text where the same word or phrase occurs;[4] brackets are omitted from composites.

[4]Because of the desire to have the Demotic reflect the actual orthography of ʿOnchsheshonqy, only the most difficult to read examples have been retouched.

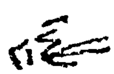
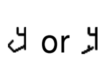
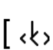
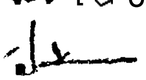
L E S S O N 2

NOUNS

¶12 Masculine nouns had no special ending; e.g.,

DEMOTIC			TRANSLATION	DEMOTIC			TRANSLATION
		*ỉṱ*	father			*wꜥb*	priest
		*nṯr*	god			*hy*	husband
		*nkt*	thing, property			*tmy* (< *dmỉ*)	town
		*bꜣk*	servant			*bꜣk*	work
		*sn*	brother			*rmṯ*	man
		*ḥry*	superior		[]	*šr*	son
	[]	*pr*[1]	house			*ꜥ(.wy)*	house

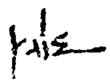
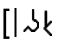
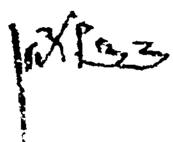
¶13 Feminine nouns usually ended in a final ‹ *t* after the determinative. This *t* is graphic only; it was never pronounced. Its residue was a final short vowel at the end of many feminine words. Some scribes regularly indicated this final short vowel by writing ʔ or ıı (transliterated *ꜣ* and *e* by convention); e.g.,

DEMOTIC			TRANSLATION	DEMOTIC			TRANSLATION
		*wp.t*	work			*bꜣk.t*	servant
	[]	*ḥm.t*	wife		[]	*šr.t*	daughter
	[]	*mw.t*	mother		[]	*sḥm.t*	woman
		*rnp.(t)*[2]	year				

[1]The word *pr* 'house' was of very limited usage; the normal word for 'house' in Demotic was *ꜥ(.wy)*.

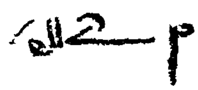
[2]Since the *t* was not actually written, it is transliterated in parentheses to show that the word is feminine.

¶14 The plural mark I *.w* is written after the determinative and after the feminine *.t*. But although this *w* is written at the very end of the word, it should be given in the transliteration after the dot (.) marking the determinative but before the feminine *t* .

DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION	DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION
	*ʿ(.wy).w*	houses		*bꜣk.w*	servants
	*wʿb.w*	priests		*rmṯ.w*	men
 []	*ẖrṯ.w*[3]	children		*sn.w*	brothers
	*šmw.wt*	in-laws			

¶15 There were numerous compound nouns in Demotic; many include one of the following:

1) *rmṯ (n)* (lit., 'man of'). Note that in combinations such as  *rmṯ rḫ* 'wise man' (19/8) the *rḫ* may derive historically from a participle.[4]

E6:22/15 

rmṯ n tmy 'local (man)'

2) *s (n)* [≐] (lit., 'man of')

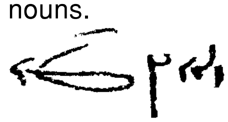
E8:22/4 

s n nb 'gold dealer' (or, 'goldsmith')

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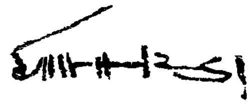
[3]Used as the plural of *šr* 'son' and *šr.t* 'daughter'.

[4]Note also that the compound *rmṯ rḫ* might be used as an adjective, meaning 'wise', and might, in such cases, modify feminine nouns.

E7: 18/9 

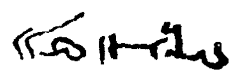
sḥm.t rmṯ(.t) rḫ.t 'wise woman'

3) *ỉry (n)* (lit., 'companion of')

E9:8/12 

ỉry-ḏḏy 'enemy' (lit., 'companion of fighting')

4) *mt.t* (< *md.t*) (lit., 'thing, word, speech'). *Mt.t* might be used with a following adjective

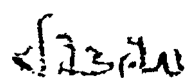
E10:12/6 

mt.t bn.t 'evil'

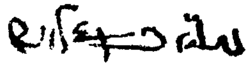
E11:4/10 

mt.(t) nfr.t 'good'

or with a following noun.

E12:5/5 

mt.t mꜣʿ.t 'truth'

E13:16/16 

mt.t Pr-ʿꜣ 'affair of state' (lit., 'business of Pharaoh')

5) *mr* (< *ỉmy-r*) [] (lit., 'overseer')

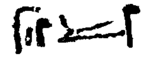
E14:2/14 

mr-mšʿ.w 'generals'

E15:24/11 

mr-šn 'chief inspector (in temple), λεσῶνις'

6) *ḥw.t* [ ] (lit., 'house')

E16:8/18 

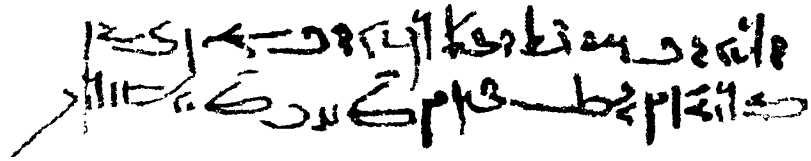
ḥw.t-nṯr 'temple'

N.B. The word *Pr-ʿꜣ* 'Pharaoh, king' (the last three strokes of which derive from *ʿnḫ, wḏꜣ, snb* but are treated as part of the noun) was historically a compound, also.

ARTICLES

¶16 The definite article was written *pꜣ* (m. s.), *tꜣ* (f. s.), *nꜣ* (pl.). Many early scribes wrote the feminine article , the plural article , in order to distinguish them. Before geographic terms many scribes wrote the masculine article *p(r)*. The name of the sun-god always included the definite article: *Pꜣ-rʿ* 'Pre'. The indefinite article was written [ ] *wʿ* (m. s.), *wʿ.t* (f. s.), [ ] *hyn.w* (pl.).

¶17 The definite article was used when the reference being made was to a specific, unique individual, object, or item. When the scribe did not need to point out the specific individual, object, or item to which reference was being made, the indefinite article might be used. Many texts, however, did not use an indefinite article; use of the plural indefinite article was quite rare. With a "mass" noun (a concept, property, non-discrete thing) or a noun being used "generically" (to refer to a category or class, rather than a specific member of the category or class), either the definite article or no article might be used. The translation into English may use either the definite or indefinite article.

E17:13/8–9 

tꜣ mw.t tꜣ nt ms tꜣ mỉ.t tꜣ nt tỉ ỉry
ḫr tỉ rmṯ nb ḫpr nkt rmṯ rḫ pꜣ nt rḫ ʿrḏ=f

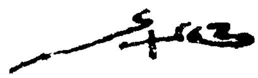
The/A mother is the one who gives birth;
the/a road is that which gives a companion.
All men acquire property;
the/a wise man is the one who knows how to conserve it.

¶18 There are several places where no article was used in Demotic even if the reference was "definite," including

1) within compound nouns (see ¶15)

2) in many prepositional phrases

E18:12/9



šʿ ḏ.t 'forever'

3) in compound verbs consisting of verb plus noun

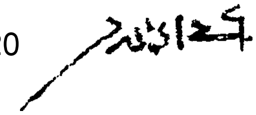
E19:5/16



ʿn smy 'to report'

4) with nouns indicating a part of the body when followed by a direct genitive; e.g., **ỉrṱ ʿnḫ-ššnqy* 'ʿOnchsheshonqy's eye' and

E20:20/20

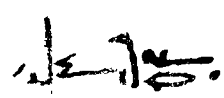


ỉrṱ≠f 'his eye'

5) with names of materials; e.g., *nb* 'gold'

6) in expressions of time

E21:21/23

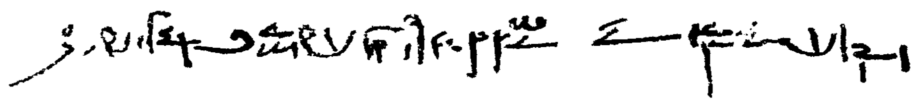


n grḥ 'at night'

7) often after a negative (see lesson 11 for negatives).

GENITIVE

¶19 The indirect genitive used the genitive — *n* between the possessed noun and the possessor noun; e.g., *rmṯ n tmy*, *s n nb* (¶15, E6,8). The direct genitive omitted this genitive *n*; e.g., *ỉry-ḏḏy*, *ḥw.t-nṯr* (¶15, E9,16). Sometimes the omission may have been purely graphic; i.e., the *n* may have been included in the spoken version of the phrase (e.g., Demotic wrote the word 'school' *ʿ.t-sbꜣ* but the Coptic form ⲁⲛⲥⲏⲃⲉ shows that the *n* was actually pronounced). From the Middle Egyptian genitive adjective *n(y)* + dependent pronoun *sw* indicating possession came the Demotic *ns* 'belonging to', used especially in names. This form occurs in ʿOnchsheshonqy only in the plural, written *ỉ(w=)s*.

E22:4/6–7 

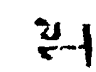
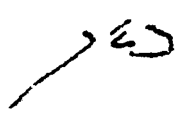
ỉp=w ỉtn ṯ-[š]bt rmṯ na-ẖ-pr ỉ(w=)s Pr-ʿꜣ r-r=f

A personal servant, a staff-bearer and a man of the household who belong to Pharaoh were assigned to him.

Several Demotic texts wrote singular *ỉ(w=)s* for *ns*, presumably reflecting contemporary pronunciation since personal names built on *ns* appeared in Greek as *Es-*, e.g., *Esmin* for *Nsmỉn*.

INDEPENDENT PRONOUNS

¶20

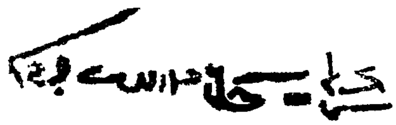
PERSON		DEMOTIC	PERSON		DEMOTIC
1 s.	*ỉnk*		1 pl.	*ỉnn*	[ ]
2 m. s.	*mtwk*	 [ ]	2 pl.	*mtwtn*	[ ]
2 f. s.	*mtwt*	[ ]			
3 m. s.	*mtwf*		3 pl.	*mtww*	[ ]
3 f. s.	*mtws*	 [ ]			

Independent pronouns were used in nominal sentences (see below) and in cleft sentences (see lesson 8). They were occasionally used to indicate possession; e.g., *ỉnk s* 'It (dependent pronoun) is mine.' (P. Rylands IX, 8/2, see Griffith 1909). Note that the independent pronoun indicated the possessor whereas, in expressions using the form *ns* (¶19), the noun following *ns* indicated the possessor.

INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS

¶21 Both *ỉḫ* and *nm* meant either 'who?' or 'what?'. They might be used anywhere a noun might be used and were simply written in the appropriate nominal position in the sentence.

E23:27/19

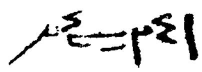


ꜥš⸗k n nm[5] *ḥr pꜣ tḥꜣ*

'To whom[5] will you call on account of bitterness?'

Note the construction *ỉḫ r-r⸗* 'what kind of … ?' (with a following suffix pronoun).

E24:3/17



ỉḫ rmṯ r-ỉr⸗k pꜣy

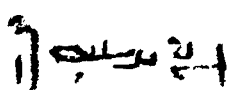
'What (kind of) man is he to you?'

Interrogative pronouns were frequently used in cleft sentences, on which see lesson 8.

NOMINAL SENTENCES

¶22 Nominal sentences are sentences in which both the "subject" and the "predicate" are nominals. If one of the two was a first or second person pronoun, singular or plural, the independent pronoun was used. It stood first in the sentence and the other nominal was directly juxtaposed.

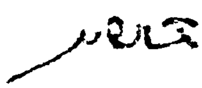
E25:16/23



ỉnk pꜣy⸗k[6] *sn* 'I am your brother.'

¶23 If one of the two was a third person pronoun, the copula pronoun (m. *pꜣy*, f. *tꜣy*, pl. *nꜣy*) was used. It followed and was directly juxtaposed to the other nominal, with which it agreed in number and gender.

E26:9/16



šm pꜣy 'It is summer.'

---

[5]The interrogative *nm* is the object of the preposition *n* (see below, p. 28, ¶42).

[6]For discussion of the possessive article, see below, ¶¶63–65.

E27:4/20 

tꜣy=k[6] *bty.t tꜣy* 'It is your abomination.'

E28:25/5 

nꜣ sẖne.w n pꜣ nṯr nꜣy 'It is the will of god.'

If the nominal with which the copula was used consisted of a noun plus a long modifier, the copula might move in front of the modifier, immediately after the noun. Thus E28 could have been written **nꜣ sẖne.w nꜣy n pꜣ nṯr*.

A nominal sentence consisting of a first or second person pronoun plus a third person pronoun would have been written independent pronoun plus copula (cf. *mtwf pꜣy* 'It is he,' using an independent pronoun 3 m. s. plus copula [Magical v, 3/8, see Griffith and Thompson 1921]).

¶24 An interrogative pronoun used in a nominal sentence followed an independent pronoun (e.g., *mtwk nm* 'Who are you?' [Magical 9/17, see Griffith and Thompson 1921]) but would have preceded the copula pronoun (e.g., **nm pꜣy* 'Who is he?').

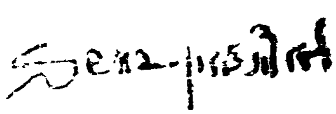
¶25 If the subject and predicate were both nouns (with or without modifiers) or noun clauses, the two were juxtaposed and the copula pronoun was placed at the end of the sentence, following both clauses.

E29:23/10



wꜥ sh̭ ls n pr Pr-ꜥꜣ wꜥ sh̭ ḥny pꜣ ym pꜣy

'A slip of the tongue in the palace is (like) a wrong turn of the helm at sea.'

E30:24/20 

sḥm.t ẖe.t n ỉny tꜣy

'A woman is (like) a stone quarry.'

If the two nouns or noun clauses differed in number or gender, the copula pronoun agreed with the first (i.e., with the one not immediately preceding the copula pronoun).

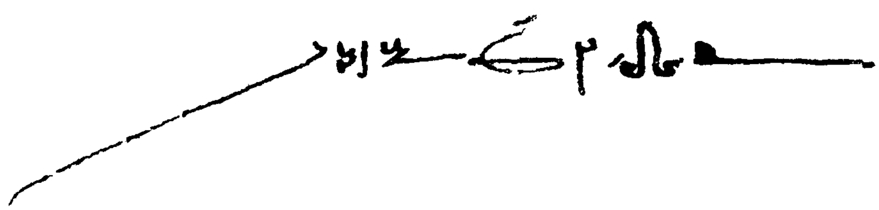
E31:13/21 

nꜣy≠s sq.w nkt ḥwrʿ nꜣy

'Her savings are stolen goods.'

Note that in some Demotic texts the copula pronoun might be inserted between the two nouns or noun clauses. Wherever the copula pronoun was inserted, the noun or noun clause immediately preceding it was functioning grammatically as the predicate of the sentence; the other noun (clause) was in apposition to the copula pronoun serving as subject.[7]

N.B. Many Demotic texts regularly or occasionally omitted the copula pronoun entirely.

E32:8/23 

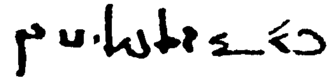
rnn.(t) rmṯ rḫ r≠f

'The best thing about (lit., 'riches/wealth of') a wise man is his speech.'

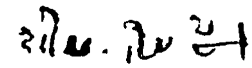
[7]It may, perhaps, be better to analyze Demotic nominal sentences consisting of two nouns (noun phrases, noun clauses) not as trimembral nominal sentences but as bimembral nominal sentences (noun [phrase/clause] + copula) with the second nominal in extraposition.

EXERCISES

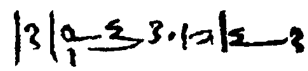
A. Transliterate and translate the following:

 *1.

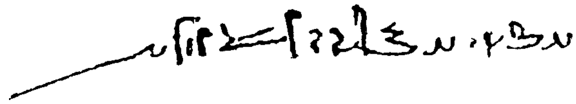
 *2.

 *3.

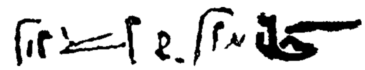
 *4.

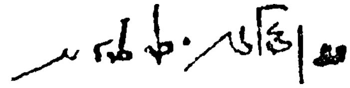
 *5.

 *6.

 *7.

 *8.

 *9.

 *10.

B. Write the following in Demotic:

1. They are the servants of the house [use ʿ*(.wy)*].
2. You are a man of the town.
3. The property of the children is mine.
4. Good and evil are things of god.
5. Who are the priests of the temple?
6. She is a wise woman.
7. The gold dealer is the son of the superior.
8. I am the mother of (a) servant of the palace.
9. The father and mother of the husband are the in-laws of the wife.
10. Truth is good.

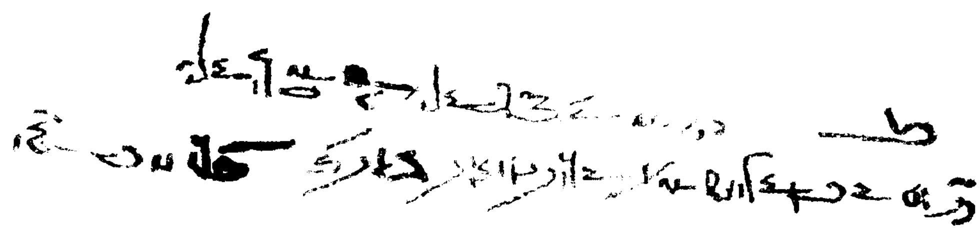
L E S S O N 3

SḎM⸗F

¶26 As noted in lesson 1, verbal sentences in Demotic consisted of, at minimum, a verb and a subject, in that order. This combination is called a *sḏm⸗f*. Different morphological forms of the verb reflected differences in tense (past, present, and future). Unfortunately, due to the writing system which indicated only consonants, these different forms were rarely graphically distinct. One example in which they were is the verb *rḫ* 'to know'. The indicative (past tense) was always written  *rḫ*, the form in the negative aorist (negative present habitude) was written  *ỉr-rḫ*, while the prospective (future) form (found in subordinate clauses as object of the verb *tỉ* [< *dỉ*] 'to cause') was written *rḫ* by some scribes, *ỉr-rḫ* by others. The only one of these three forms attested in ꜥOnchsheshonqy is the negative aorist, written *ỉr-rḫ* (see chapter 11, ¶123 and n. 11, on the negative aorist for a discussion of this form).

¶27 As just noted, the indicative *sḏm⸗f* of the vast majority of verbs formed the past tense and was regularly used in narrative, both as the initial clause in a narrative passage and in the continuing clauses; all were separate main clause forms in Demotic.

E33:2/20–21

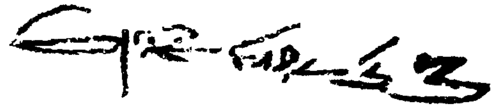


ḫpr [pꜣ nw] n pꜣ ṯ-wnw(.t) 8.t (n) grḥ
nhs Pr-ꜥꜣ glp⸗f ḥr⸗f ꜥš⸗f ḏ nm pꜣ nt bnr

'[The time] of the 8th hour of the night occurred;
the king awoke; he uncovered his face; and he called out, saying,
"Who is (the one who is) outside?"'

¶28 For idiomatic reasons, with a small number of verbs the indicative *sḏm⸗f* is translated into English as a present tense rather than a past. The most common of these is the verb *wn* 'to be' when used in "existence clauses"

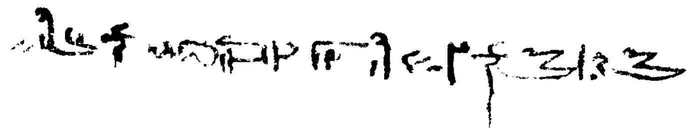
E34:26/5



wn ḏtḥ n tỉ ꜥnḫ

'There is imprisonment for giving (i.e., preserving) life.'

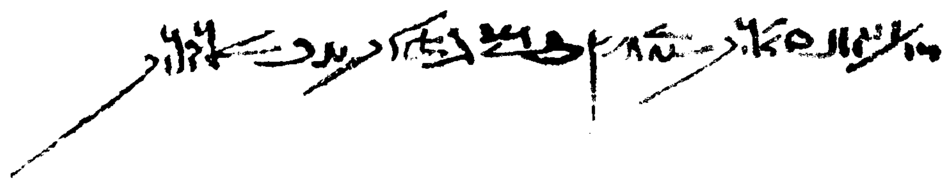
or in other present tense clauses with an indefinite noun subject (see lesson 5, ¶49, for a discussion of such clauses; see lesson 9, ¶100, for the past tense using *wn-nꜣw*).

E35:2/17 

wn-nꜣw wn wʿ rmṯ na ẖ(.t)-pr ḥr-tbn wʿ mꜣʿ

'A man of the household (or, 'bodyguard') was atop a place.'

The same usage is found with the verbs *mst* 'to hate' and *mr* 'to love'.

E36:23/15 

kl ỉw mr⸗f tgy mst⸗f pꜣ nt wnm⸗f

'An ape which loves[1] fruit (he) hates the one who eats it.'

See also the discussion of adjective verbs in lesson 6, ¶¶60–61.

¶29 The perfect tense, which is not attested in ʿOnchsheshonqy, consisted of the indicative *sḏm⸗f* of the verb *wꜣḥ* 'to complete, stop' plus the infinitive of the lexical verb. It was used mainly to describe a condition in the past; that is, it was descriptive, not narrative, past narration [recitation of events, usually in chronological order] being the function of the past tense. The perfect can often be translated 'to have already done' something; e.g., *mt.t nb.t r-ḏ⸗t wꜣḥ⸗y ỉr⸗w n⸗t ḏr⸗w* 'Everything which you (f. s.) mentioned, I have already done them all for you' (Setne Khaemwast I, 5/28, see Griffith 1900). Most scribes wrote this auxiliary identically with the preposition  *ḥr* 'upon' (see lesson 4, ¶42, for the preposition, and lesson 9, Vocabulary, for the orthography of the verb *wꜣḥ* as a lexical item in ʿOnchsheshonqy).

¶30 The prospective *sḏm⸗f* when used in a main clause had future meaning.

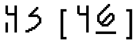
E37:10/7 

ḏrp⸗k r rṱ⸗k n ʿ(.wy) rmṯ ʿꜣ bn ỉw ḏrp⸗k r ls⸗k

'You may stumble with your feet in the house of a great man; you should not stumble with your tongue.'

[1] *Mr* is used in a circumstantial, virtual relative clause, on which, see lesson 8.

Such main clause examples were fairly rare in Demotic (see lesson 5, ¶53, for the normal future form). The subjunctive (i.e., subordinate clause) use of this form, especially as object of the verb *tỉ* (< *dỉ*) 'to cause', was much more common. It is found in the optative (see lesson 7, ¶68), the causative infinitive, the finalis, and the temporal (on all of which see lesson 10). The *sḏm⸗f* used as a purpose clause (see lesson 10, ¶114) may also have been the subjunctive. Both the *sḏm⸗f* and the infinitive (¶45) might be used as the object of another verb; see ¶111 and E188–89.

¶31 The third form of the *sḏm⸗f* is that which, combined with the preceding particle  *ḫr*, formed what is called the "aorist," an extratemporal form unmarked for tense. It frequently indicated customary action and is often best translated into English as a simple present or by using an adverb such as 'always, regularly, normally'.

E38:13/9

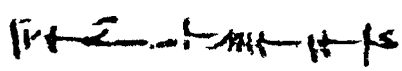


ḫr tỉ rmṯ nb ḫpr nkt

'All men acquire property.'
(lit., 'All men cause that property comes into being.')

¶32 The past tense indicative *sḏm⸗f* was occasionally replaced by the equivalent of the periphrastic construction *ỉr⸗f sḏm*. This practice was more common in the aorist and with the subjunctive uses of the prospective *sḏm⸗f*. In the Ptolemaic period this practice was usually, although not exclusively, limited to foreign verbs or verbs with more than three radicals.

E39:3/20



ỉr⸗w ḏḏy r <ꜥnḫ-ššnqy sꜣ> Ṯ-nfr

'They ran after <ꜥOnchsheshonqy, the son of> Tjay-nefer.'

¶33 If the nominal serving as subject of a *sḏm⸗f* was a pronoun, a suffix pronoun was used. Dependent pronouns were used to indicate pronominal direct objects.

PASSIVE

¶34 To indicate the passive, a third person plural pronoun was used (the construction remained active).

E40:1/13



ỉr⸗w Ḥr-sꜣ-ꜣs(.t) sꜣ Rꜥ-ms r wr swnw

'Harsiese, the son of Ramose, was made the Chief Physician.'

The agent (i.e., the subject of the active equivalent) was introduced by the preposition *n-ḏr.t* 'through, by'; see lesson 4, ¶43.

SUFFIX PRONOUNS

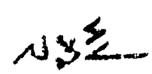
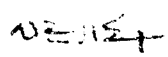
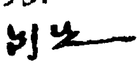
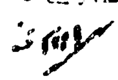
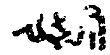
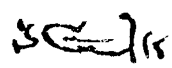
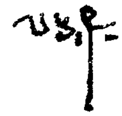
¶35

PERSON	DEMOTIC		PERSON	DEMOTIC	
1 s.		*y*	1 pl.	[]	*n*
2 m. s.		*k*	2 pl.	[]	*tn*
2 f. s.	[ ]	*t*			
3 m. s.		*f*	3 pl.	|	*w*
3 f. s.		*s*			

The 3 f. s. is used for the neuter.
In early Demotic, through the reigns of the first two Ptolemies, 1 s.  *y* was usually not written (as in Old Egyptian).

¶36 There were four basic uses of the suffix pronouns: 1) as subject of a verbal sentence; 2) as object of a preposition; 3) as direct object after an infinitive; and 4) as possessive, either in a direct genitive after the small number of nouns, mostly parts of the body, which have a pronominal form, or in the possessive article (on which, see lesson 6).

¶37 The following are the only nouns which appear in ʿOnchsheshonqy with an attached suffix pronoun. All these nouns are cited in the pronominal form. With all other nouns, the possessive article had to be used. Many of these pronominal forms have a  *ṯ* after the determinative, before the suffix. In some cases this seems to be reinforcing one of the consonants of the root of the noun; in others it may be the feminine *t*, whose pronunciation as /t/ is retained before a suffix pronoun. Especially in the latter cases, the *ṯ* would not normally appear when the noun was not followed by a suffix pronoun.

DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION	DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION
	*ỉr.ṯ*	eye		*ʿṯ*	member
	*pḥ.ṯ*	strength		*rṯ*	foot
	*r*	mouth		*ls*	tongue
	*ḥꜣ.ṯ*	heart		*ḥr*	face
	*ḥʿ*	-self (lit., limb)		*ḥꜣ.ṯ*	front
	*ḫrw*	voice		*ẖe.ṯ*	side
	*sṯ*	tail		*ḏꜣḏꜣ*	head
				*ḏr.ṯ*	hand

DEPENDENT PRONOUNS

¶38

PERSON	DEMOTIC		PERSON	DEMOTIC	
1 s.	[]	*ṯ̭≈y*	1 pl.	[]	*ṯ̭≈n*
2 m. s.		*ṯ̭≈k*	2 pl.	[]	*ṯ̭≈tn*
2 f. s.	[]	*ṯ̭≈t*			
3 m. s.		*s*	3 pl.	 or 	*st*
3 f. s.		*s*			

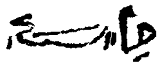
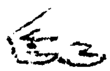
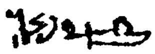
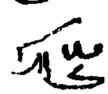
The 3 pl. form was also used for the neuter and after the verb *tỉ* 'to give' (on which see lesson 5, ¶48).

¶39 These forms were used as direct objects after conjugated verb forms and the imperative. Note that some verbs regularly required either a reflexive direct object (e.g., *lg* 'to stop') or a redundant one. In the latter case the object was a "neuter" *s*. The most common verbs in ʿOnchsheshonqy which require this redundant object before a following clause or quote (often introduced by *ḏ*, below, ¶75) are *wḫ꜡* 'to wish', *rḥ* 'to know', *ḥn* 'to command', *gm* 'to find', and *tbḥ* (< *dbḥ*) 'to request', which may be classified as verbs of incomplete predication. *Ḏ* 'to say' often took this redundant direct object when the subject intervened between *ḏ* and the following clause or quote.

¶40 In Demotic as in other stages of the Egyptian language, pronouns tended to precede nouns. Thus, if a *sḏm≈f* had a nominal subject but a pronominal direct object, the direct object would be moved in front of the noun subject. A pronominal subject always preceded the object, whether the latter was nominal or pronominal, since the suffix pronoun was directly attached to the verb.[2]

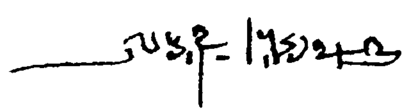
[2]For example, in E117 the pronominal subject *k* 'you' precedes the pronominal direct object *st* 'them'. If the subject had been a noun, for example *p꜡ rmṯ* 'the man', the word order would have been **ỉn ḏ st p꜡ rmṯ*… 'Did the man tell them …?'

VOCABULARY

DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION	DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION
	*ỉn*	to bring		*swṯ*	to deliver
	*mḫy*	to beat		*šms*	to follow, serve
	*ḥwy*	to throw		*mtr*	to instruct
	*qt* (< *qd*)	to build		*ꜣnṯ*	to restrain
	*štm*	to slander		*mky*	to pamper
	*ṯ*	to take		*ḫsf*[3]	to despise
	*mšt*	to inspect		*sḥn*	to order
	*nḥṯ*	to trust		*ẖtb*	to kill
	*gm*	to find		*ḏ*	to say, speak
	*šn*	to ask (someone, *r* 'about' something), question		*bꜥy*	to rage, be enraged

EXERCISES

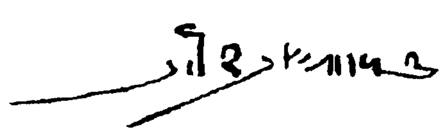
A. Transliterate and translate the following:

 *1.

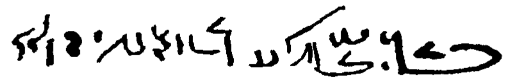
 *2.

 *3.

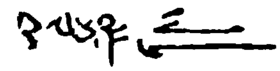
 *4.

 *5.

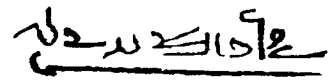
[3]Note that a small hole in the papyrus has destroyed parts of each sign, especially the *f*.

 *6.

 *7.

 *8.

 *9.

 *10.

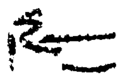
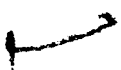
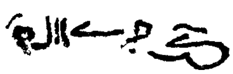
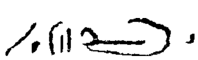
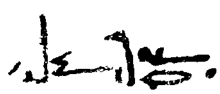
B. Write the following in Demotic:

1. I should build a house.
2. Priests and temples exist.
3. They despise his strength.
4. He should restrain his foot.
5. His tongue is normally talking.
6. They were found.
7. You (pl.) pamper yourselves.
8. It is regularly delivered.
9. The servant slandered the general.
10. Fathers instruct sons.

LESSON 4

ADVERBS

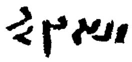
¶41 There were three general types of adverbs in Demotic: of quality, of place, and of time. Adverbs normally stood at the end of their clause.

TYPE	DEMOTIC			TRANSLATION
quality			*m-šs*	very
		[]	*ʿšꜣy*	always, zealously
place			*r-bnr*	outside
			*r-ẖn*	inside
			*r-ḥry*	up
		[]	*ty* (< *dy*)	here
time			*ʿn*	again
			*n tꜣy ḥty*	immediately
			*n pꜣ hrw*	today
			*n mn.(t)*	daily
			*n grḥ*	at night
			*n rhy*	in the evening
			*n mt(r)e*	at midday
			*r ḥꜣ.t*	before, first

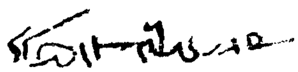
PREPOSITIONS

¶42 Demotic had both simple and compound prepositions. Some simple prepositions were unchanging (i.e., had no special pronominal form).

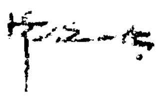
DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION	DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION
	*ỉrm*	with, and		*ỉwṯ̂*	between
	*ẖn*	in		*ḥr*	over, upon
	*ỉwty*	without			

E41:4/5  *ỉrm rmṯ nb* 'with every man'

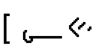
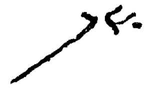
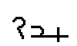
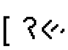
E42:19/12  *ỉwṯ̂ sn 2* 'between 2 brothers'

E43:16/18  *ẖn mt.t bn.t* 'in evil (times)'

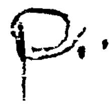
E44:12/5  *ḥr pꜣ tw* 'on the mountain'

E45:2/13  *ỉwty tn* 'without fee'

Other simple prepositions were written differently before pronominal objects (i.e., had special pronominal forms).

n		Dative 'to, for'			'in' (< *m*)	
1 s.		[]	*n≠y*		[]	*n-ỉm≠y*
2 m. s.		[]	*n≠k*		[]	*n-ỉm≠k*
2 f. s.		[]	*n≠t*		[]	*n-ỉm≠t*
3 m. s.		[]	*n≠f*		[]	*n-ỉm≠f*
3 f. s.		[]	*n≠s*		[]	*n-ỉm≠s*
1 pl.		[]	*n≠n*		[]	*n-ỉm≠n*
2 pl.		[]	*n≠tn*		[]	*n-ỉm≠tn*
3 pl.		[]	*n≠w*		[]	*n-ỉm≠w*
Noun		-	*n* [1]		-	*n* [1]

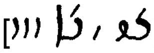
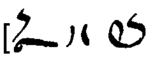
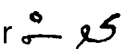
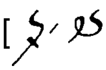
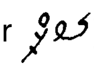
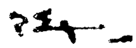
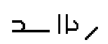
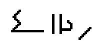
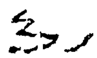
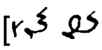
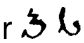
[1] Both *n* and *r* were very frequently omitted in writing before a noun object. Note also that many texts, including ʿOnchsheshonqy, omitted the "*r* of futurity" (see ¶53) and that the preposition *ḥr* which was present in the ancestor of the Demotic present tense [Late Egyptian *tw(≠y) (ḥr) sḏm*] was never written in Demotic.

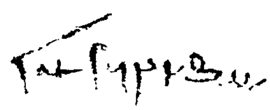
E46:5/11 

n pꜣy≈f ḥry 'to its superior'

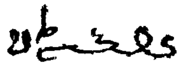
E47:20/18 

n ḥꜣṯ̭≈k 'in your heart'

	r 'to(ward), at, about, concerning'		*ẖr* 'under, containing'[2]	
1 s.		*r-ḥr≈y*	[]	*ẖr-r-ḥr≈y*
2 m. s.		*r-ỉr≈k*	[ or ]	*ẖr-r(-ỉr)≈k*
2 f. s.	[]	*r-ḥr≈t*		
3 m. s.		*r-r≈f*	[ or ]	*ẖr-(r-)r≈f*
3 f. s.		*r-r≈s*	[]	*ẖr-r-r≈s*
1 pl.	[]	*r-ḥr≈n*		
2 pl.	[]	*r-ḥr≈tn*		
3 pl.		*r-r≈w*	[ or ]	*ẖr-r≈w*
Noun		*r* [1]		*ẖr*

E48:7/7 

r pꜣ nkt rmṯ swg 'about the property of a stupid man'

E49:4/18 

ẖr mṯ̭k 'containing *mṯ̭k*-wine'

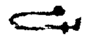
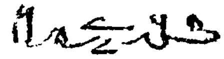
The preposition *ỉỉr* 'to, before' occurs in ꜥOnchsheshonqy only with noun objects; when it occurs with pronominal objects in other texts, it is written *ỉỉr-n≈*.

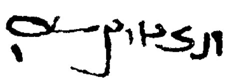
Note that there were verbs in Demotic which corresponded to an English transitive verb but which in the Demotic were intransitive and were always construed with a (specific) preposition before what corresponds to the English direct object. A good example is the verb *nw,* which meant 'to look' and was regularly construed with the preposition *r*, where the compound *nw r* meant 'to see' (lit., 'to look at'). There were also verbs in Demotic which, although they could be used transitively, could also be

[2] Forms in brackets scanned from Spiegelberg (1925), *Demotische Grammatik*, p. 132, §291.

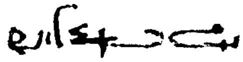
used intransitively, construed with a (specific) preposition. In many cases, the meaning of a verb was modified somewhat when construed with a preposition; e.g., the verb *wḫꜣ* 'to wish, desire' was construed with the preposition *r* before an infinitive and meant 'to wish to do' something while the compound *wḫꜣ m-sꜣ* (on *m-sꜣ*, see ¶43) meant 'to look for/seek' someone/something and *wḫꜣ wbꜣ* (not attested in ʿOnchsheshonqy) meant 'to care for' someone.

¶43 Compound prepositions were usually composed of a simple preposition plus a noun or an infinitive.

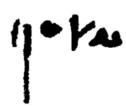
	*ỉỉr-ḥr*	before (spatially)
	*m-bꜣḥ*	before (a king or god)
	*m-sꜣ*	after, except
	*m-qty*	like
	*r-ẖ(.t)*	according to

E50:17/17 

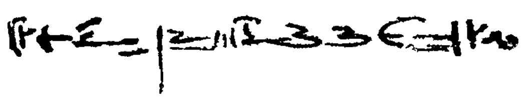
ỉỉr-ḥr rmṯ ḫm 'before a poor man'

E51:3/13 

m-bꜣḥ Pr-ʿꜣ 'before the king'

E52:8/9 

m-sꜣ sẖ 'after a scribe'

E53:4/9 

m-sꜣ ʿnḫ-ššnqy sꜣ Ṯ-nfr

'except ʿOnchsheshonqy, the son of Tjay-nefer'

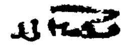
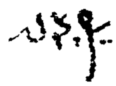
E54:22/13 

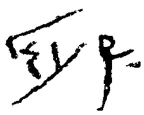
m-qty mnḫ 'like linen'

E55:9/25 

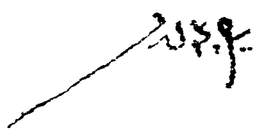
r-ẖ(.t) ʿ pꜣ nt mtw≍k 'according to the extent of what you have'

Occasionally such prepositions had special pronominal forms.

BEFORE NOUN	BEFORE PRONOUN		TRANSLATION
		*r-ḏbꜣ.(ṯ)*	because of, concerning
 or 		*(n-)ḏr.(ṯ)*	with, from, through[3] (lit., in the hand of)

E56:18/9 

(n-)ḏr.(t) lḥ 'from a fool'

E57:21/13 

(n-)ḏr.ṯ≍f 'from him'

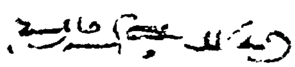
E58:19/25 

r-ḏbꜣ swg 'because of stupidity'

E59:4/10 

r-ḏbꜣ.ṯ≍s 'because of it'

The compound preposition  *mtw* (< *m-di͗*) meant 'belonging to'.

E60:1/13 (and 18) 

mtw pꜣ wr swnw 'belonging to the Chief Physician'

---

[3]Also to introduce the agent after a passive; see ¶34.

Note that when the possessor was a 2nd or 3rd person pronoun, this combination was written identically with the independent pronoun. This preposition was especially common in combination with the verb 'to be' (positive *wn* [¶10], negative *mn* [¶118]), the resultant clause being the equivalent of English sentences using the verb 'to have'.

E61:10/16 

wn mtw≠y 'I have'

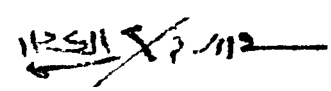
PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

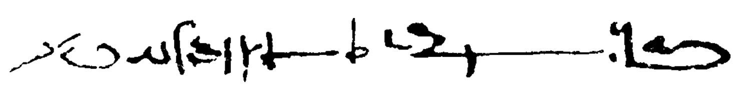
¶44 Prepositional phrases consisted of a preposition, either simple or compound, plus an object. If the object was pronominal, a suffix pronoun was used, with the pronominal form of the preposition if there was one. Examples have been quoted above. With the exception of a pronominal dative in association with a nominal direct object,[4] all prepositional phrases followed the direct object, if there was one in the sentence.

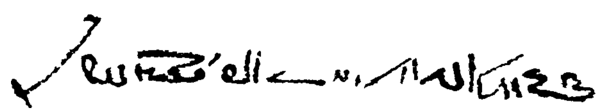
EXERCISES

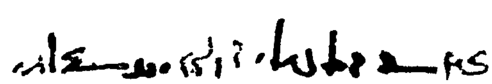
A. Transliterate and translate the following:

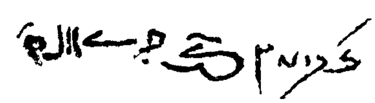
 *1.

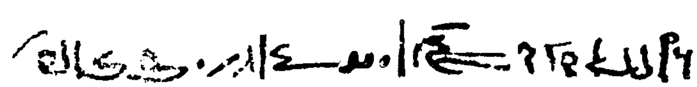
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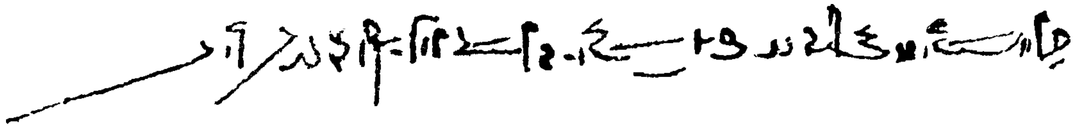
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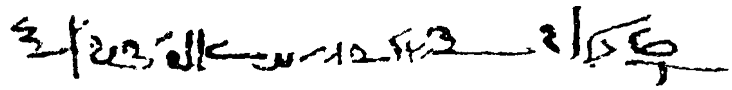
 *6.

 *7.

 *8.

[4]For example, E208 in Lesson 11, ¶122.


*9.


*10.

B. Translate the following into Demotic:

1. A wise man speaks the truth before the king.
2. The priest will (or, should) instruct the man like a son.
3. The man and wife brought you to the temple today.
4. The house belonging to the priest was built in the town.
5. The children found it in it.
6. The priests will (or, should) build the temple here.
7. I asked him about good and evil.
8. They found it under her foot.
9. I am the servant of the god.
10. I trust my heart.

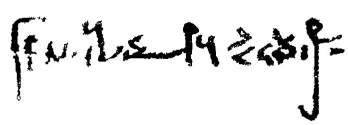
L E S S O N 5

INFINITIVES

¶45 The infinitive was a nominal form of the verb. It might be used anywhere in the sentence that a noun might be used. With transitive verbs there were three forms of the infinitive in Demotic, the absolute, the construct, and the pronominal. The construct was used before an immediately following noun object, the pronominal before an immediately following suffix pronoun object. The forms reflect differences in vocalization due to differences in stress, as found in the Coptic absolute, construct, and pronominal forms of the infinitive. With final-weak verbs, and a few strong verbs, the pronominal infinitive had a *.ṯ* before the pronominal suffix, after the determinative. The number of strong verbs showing this *.ṯ* is greater in ꜥOnchsheshonqy than in most texts. The verbs with pronominal infinitives with *.ṯ* which occur in ꜥOnchsheshonqy are those given in the vocabulary in lesson 3. Intransitive verbs had only an absolute infinitive.

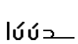
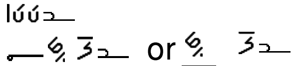
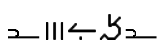
QUALITATIVES

¶46 The qualitative was an adverbial form of the verb which indicated the state which resulted from the action of the verb. For this reason, the qualitative is often translated as a passive.

E62:23/14 

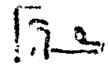
ḏr.t nb swtn n pꜣ nṯr 'Every hand is extended to god.'

There are two seeming exceptions to this rule. One is the verb *rḫ* 'to know', the qualitative of which, *ỉr-rḫ*, was used with the meaning 'to know' and was normally followed by a redundant direct object pronoun *s* before a clause direct object (see lesson 3, ¶39). No other qualitative was ever followed by a direct object. The other seeming exception to this rule consists of those verbs, usually verbs of motion, whose qualitative was formed with *ỉn* (from Middle and Late Egyptian preposition *m*). Coming as they did from *m* plus an infinitive, they indicated motion in progress. No examples are attested in ꜥOnchsheshonqy; samples are given below of the most common examples. The qualitative was used only in the present tense constructions; see below.

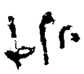
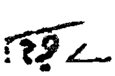
DEMOTIC		DERIVATION	TRANSLATION
	*ỉn-ỉw*	*m ỉwt*	coming
	*ỉn-n*ꜥ [1]	*m n*ꜥ*y*	going
	*ỉn-qty*	[< *qd*]	sleeping

[1]The final sign in this group is either a "walking legs determinative" or the qualitative ending *.k* discussed in ¶47.

¶47 In earlier stages of Egyptian, the qualitative (old perfective) had endings which agreed in number and gender with the subject of the qualitative. Some of the qualitative forms in Demotic retained these endings, but by the Ptolemaic period they no longer necessarily agreed with the subject. With most verbs showing endings, the qualitative form consistently used one ending, without reference to the subject. Thus, the ending was simply marking the form as a qualitative. The three common endings on the qualitative are *.k* (< *.kwỉ*) (not attested in ꜥOnchsheshonqy), | *.w*, and *.ṱ*.

ENDING		DEMOTIC VERB		TRANSLATION
	.k			
|	*.w*		*mꜣꜥ*	to be justified
			*mtr*	to be satisfied, be in agreement
	.ṱ		*ꜥḏ*	to be evil, be false
			*hwš*	to injure, be offensive
			*ṯ*	to take

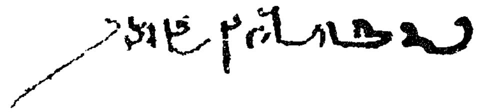
¶48 In some other cases the qualitative had none of the old endings, but it was written differently from the infinitive. In such cases the spelling of the qualitative was identical with that of the *sḏm⸗f*. Although the qualitative of the verb *tỉ* 'to give' does not occur in ꜥOnchsheshonqy, the *sḏm⸗f* [written in many texts] is distinct from the infinitive, which was normally written but was written in the idiom *tỉ wp.t* 'to make festive' and before 3rd person pronominal objects. Note that, in this latter case, it was, quite exceptionally, the 3rd plural form of the dependent pronoun (rather than the suffix pronoun) which was used as object of the infinitive (the same form was used whether the object was singular or plural). This combination *tỉ st* * + was written . (For further discussion of the *sḏm⸗f* of adjective verbs, see lesson 6, ¶¶60–61.)

INFINITIVE		QUALITATIVE AND *SḎM⸗F*		
DEMOTIC		DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION
	*ỉy*		*ỉw*	to come
	*ꜥ(ꜣ)w*		*ꜥ(ꜣ)y*	to be large, be great
	*ꜥšꜣy*		*ꜥšꜣ*	to be numerous
	*tḥꜣ*		*tḥr*	to be sad
	*rḫ*		*ỉr-rḫ*	to know

PRESENT TENSE

¶49 It has been noted (in lesson 3, ¶28) that the indicative *sḏm≠f* of a small number of verbs (including *wn* 'to be') is translated into English as a present tense. Likewise, aorist forms (¶31) are often best translated into English as simple present tense forms. The actual Egyptian (immediate) present tense construction is that which has traditionally been called "sentences with adverbial predicates." In these sentences the subject preceded this "adverbial predicate," which might be an adverb, a prepositional phrase,

E63:11/13

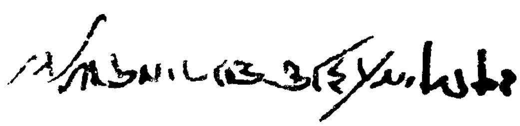


ꜣmy.t rmṯ r ḥr≠f

'The character of a man is in his face.'

an infinitive (derived historically from the combination preposition *ḥr* or *m* plus infinitive),

E64:18/11

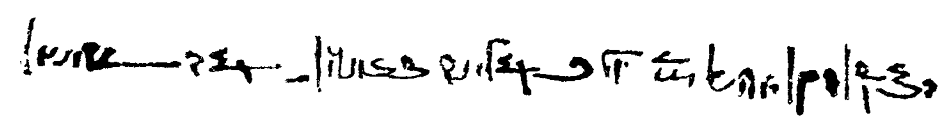


nꜣ ḫrṱ.w n pꜣ lḫ̭ mšʿ n pꜣ ḫyr

'The children of the fool are walking in the street.'

or a qualitative.

E65:2/14–15



nꜣ mr-mš ʿ.w nꜣ rmṯ.w ʿ(ꜣ)y.w pr Pr-ʿꜣ mtr.w r-r≠s ḏr≠w

'The generals and the great men of the palace are all agreed to it.'

When the subject was a definite noun, this noun stood at the beginning of the sentence, with nothing preceding it, as in E62–65. However, as noted in lesson 1, ¶10, when the subject of such a clause was an indefinite noun, the verb *wn* 'to be' preceded the noun (see E35). When the subject of such a clause was pronominal, the proclitic pronouns were used (see ¶52).

§50 Since the verb *wn* actually appeared in such clauses when the subject was an indefinite noun, and since even in those where it was not overtly expressed its

presence was implied, all such clauses can best be understood as verbal sentences from which the verb "to be" has been omitted. What has been called the "adverbial predicate" is actually an adverbial which appears in the normal adverb position, after the subject (see ¶9). An infinitive in this position indicated action going on, in contrast with the qualitative, which indicated the state resulting from the action (cf. E64 with E62). Note that, with the verb "to come," the qualitative *ỉw*, indicating the state resulting from the action, is equivalent to an English past tense.

E66:20/12

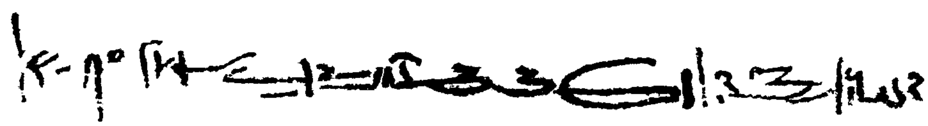


tw⸗y ỉw 'I came.' (or, 'have come')

Since the present tense made no statement concerning the end point of the action or state, the present tense is often called the "durative."

¶51 The dependent pronouns (see lesson 3, ¶38) could not be used in present tense sentences. If the infinitival predicate of a present tense clause had a direct object, this object had to be introduced by the preposition *n, n-ỉm⸗* (for *n-ỉm⸗*, see lesson 4, ¶42)

E67:5/14

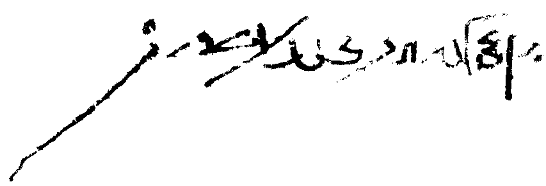


nꜣ mt.w(t) r-wn-nꜣw ʿnḫ-ššnqy sꜣ Ṯ-nfr sẖ n-ỉm⸗w

'the words which ʿOnchsheshonqy, the son of Tjay-nefer, was writing (them)'

unless the direct object was an undetermined noun.

E68:23/18



pꜣy⸗f ỉṯ̭ ỉw⸗f ỉr ṯ̭l r-r⸗f

'His father (he) is energetic on his behalf.'[2]

This rule will be referred to as the "durative direct object" or "oblique object" rule.[3]

---

[2]The undetermined noun *ṯ̭l* is the direct object of the construct infinitive *ỉr*.

[3]This rule did not apply to infinitives embedded as the object of another infinitive in a present tense construction (on such embedding, see ¶111). Note, however, that the "oblique object" might be used with non-present tenses incorporating an infinitive (not the *sḏm⸗f*), especially if something intervened between the infinitive and the direct object. This corresponded to Coptic usage, where the pronominal or construct infinitive could be used only with a directly following, attached direct object; if

Thus, present tense clauses had many different outward forms; see E63 with a prepositional phrase in the predicate position; E65 with the qualitative; E66 with the qualitative *ỉw*; E64 with an absolute infinitive, in this case of a verb of motion; E68 with a construct infinitive and undetermined noun direct object; and E67 with a pronominal oblique object after the absolute infinitive.

PROCLITIC PRONOUNS

¶52

PERSON	DEMOTIC		PERSON	DEMOTIC	
1 s.		*tw⸗y*	1 pl.	[ ]	*tw⸗n*
2 m. s.		*tỉ⸗k*	2 pl.	[ ]	*tw⸗tn*
2 f. s.	[ ]	*tw⸗t*			
3 m. s.		*ỉw⸗f*[4]	3 pl.		*st*
3 f. s.		*ỉw⸗s*[4]			

Some texts wrote the 2 m. s. *ỉw⸗k*.[4]

These pronouns were used as the subject of present tense main clauses; they derived from the Late Egyptian pronominal compound.

FUTURE TENSE

¶53 As noted in lesson 3, ¶30, the prospective *sḏm⸗f* used in main clauses to indicate future tense was not common in Demotic. The future in Demotic was normally written *ỉw* plus subject (suffix pronoun if pronominal) plus preposition *r* plus an infinitive. Any of the three forms of the infinitive could be used (in contrast to the present tense where the oblique object rule prevented the use of the pronominal and, except under limited conditions, the construct). In ʿOnchsheshonqy, and many other texts, the preposition *r* was not written in the future (it had presumably become vocalic, as in Coptic ⲉϥⲉⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄) so that the future was written *ỉw* plus subject plus infinitive.

PERSON	DEMOTIC		PERSON	DEMOTIC	
1 s.		*ỉw⸗y*	1 pl.	[ ]	*ỉw⸗n*
2 m. s.		*ỉw⸗k*	2 pl.	[ ]	*ỉw⸗tn*
2 f. s.	[ ]	*ỉw⸗t*			
3 m. s.		*ỉw⸗f*	3 pl.	[ ]	*ỉw⸗w*
3 f. s.		*ỉw⸗s*			
Noun	[…]	*ỉw [r… r]*			

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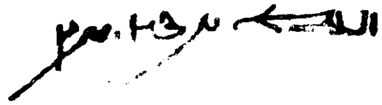
anything intervened between the infinitive and the object, the absolute infinitive and the "oblique object" had to be used. Note also that, in the case of verbs which were construed with a (specific) preposition (see ¶42), that preposition was used in all tenses and all verbal constructions before what corresponds to the English direct object.

[4]The *ỉw* was a "base" on which the suffix pronoun rested. The Coptic writing of the corresponding forms as ϥ, ⲥ, ⲕ suggests that this "base" may have been merely graphic and that the pronunciation even in Demotic may have been simply /f/, /s/, /k/, rather than */ef/, etc.

¶53 Future Tense (*cont.*)

The future was used to indicate both simple futurity

E69:18/22

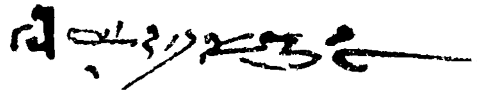


ỉw=y tỉ pꜣy nkt n pꜣy rmṯ

'I shall give this thing to this man.'

and vows and injunctions.

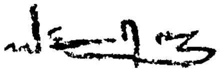
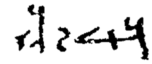
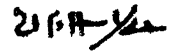
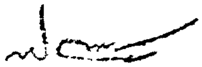
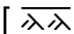
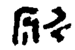
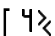
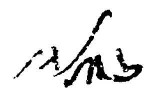
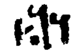
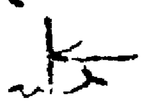
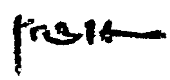
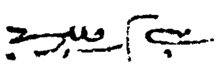
E70:13/18



ỉw=k wn=f r tꜣy=k mw.t

'You should open it (your heart) to your mother.'

VOCABULARY

DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION	DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION
	*wnw.t*	hour		*sbꜣ.t*	instruction
	*mt.t*	thing, word, speech		*blḏꜥ*	potsherd
	*sḫ.(t)*	field		*ꜥš-sḥn*	matter, affair
	*ḥn*	vessel	 []	*pr-ḥḏ*	storehouse
	*ỉry*	companion		*sẖ*	scribe
	*ꜣbyn*	poor man	 []	*nb*	lord
	*tꜣ*	land, earth[5]		*ḥw*	excess
	*šwṱ*	merchant		*ḥw*	profit
	*lh̭*	fool		*ẖyr*	street
	*ḥḏ*	silver, money		*sw*	day
	*s*	man		*šy*	fate
	*tš*	district		*ḏmꜥ*	papyrus roll
	*ꜥq*	loaf (of bread), rations		*gy*	manner, form
	*wr swnw*	Chief Physician		*ꜣmy.t*	character, conduct, personality

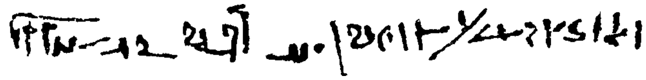
Note also the idioms *ỉn r-ḏbꜣ ḥḏ* 'to buy' (lit., 'to bring for money') and *tỉ r-ḏbꜣ ḥḏ* 'to sell' (lit., 'to give for money').

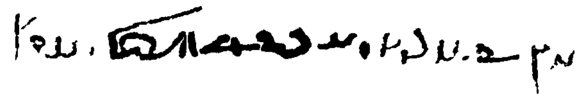
[5]Also note the phrase *n pꜣ tꜣ* 'at all', discussed in lesson 1, ¶11.

EXERCISES

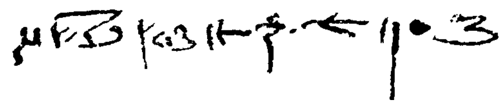
A. Transliterate and translate the following:


*1.

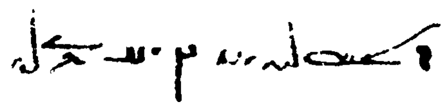

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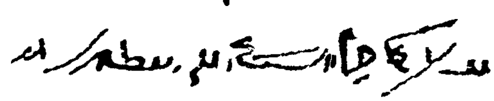

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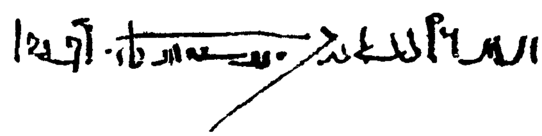

*4.


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*10.

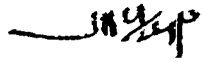
B. Translate the following into Demotic:

1. Who is the lord of fate?
2. You should follow god.
3. They were given the excess of the silver by the Chief Physician.
4. A wise man is instructing the king's children.
5. The scribes will know the hour of the affair.
6. The poor man is delivering it to the storehouse.
7. I will ask the companion of the fool about the form of the words.
8. We are giving it to her today.
9. The merchant's field is between the street and the town.
10. Fate scorns (lit., despises) money.

L E S S O N 6

ADJECTIVES

¶54 There were three basic uses of the adjective in Demotic: as a modifier, nominalized as a noun equivalent, and as a predicate. There were very few adjectives left in Demotic which could actually modify a noun. The noun preceding *ꜥšꜣ* 'numerous' was always singular.

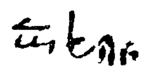
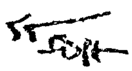
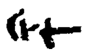
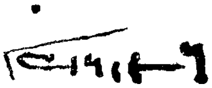
E71:22/21 

rmṯ ꜥšꜣy 'numerous men' (also, 'common man')

E72:2/11 

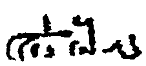
mt.t nfr.t ꜥšꜣy 'numerous good things'

All other adjectives usually followed the noun, with which they agreed in number and gender; some have special plural forms.

MASCULINE	FEMININE	PLURAL		TRANSLATION
			*ꜥšꜣy*	numerous
			*ꜥꜣ*[1] [pl. *ꜥ(ꜣ)y.w*]	large, great
			*bn*	evil
			*nfr*	good
			*ḫm*	small
			*sbk* [*sbq*]	small, few

E73:10/14 

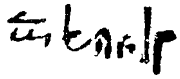
sn ꜥꜣ 'elder brother'

E74:6/13 

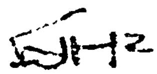
mt.t ꜥꜣ.t 'great thing'

[1] Note placement of the feminine *t* under the cross-bar, not at the very end of the word.

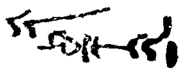
¶54 Adjectives (*cont.*)

E75:2/15 

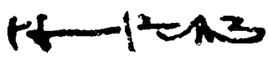
rmṯ.w ꜥ(ꜣ)y.w 'great men'

E76:10/19 

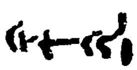
ꜣḥ bn 'poor field'

E77:25/22 

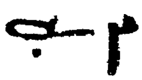
sḥm.t bn.t 'evil woman'

E78:11/22 

šy nfr 'good fate'

E79:24/21 

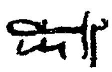
sḥm.t nfr.t 'good woman'

E80:7/19 

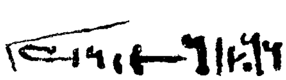
rmṯ ẖm 'small man'

E81:6/13 

mt.t ẖm.t 'small thing'

E82:5/9 

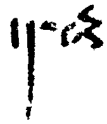
rmṯ.w ẖm.w 'small men'

E83:1/12 

sw sbk 'few days'

The adjective  *wr* 'great' is attested in ꜥOnchsheshonqy only in the compound *wr swnw* 'Chief Physician' (see Vocabulary, lesson 5).

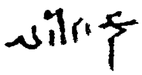
¶55 The "adjective"  *h̭ʿ(m)* 'small' preceded its noun.

E84:16/25 

h̭ʿ(m) sẖ 'small document'

In some texts *h̭ʿ(m)* was connected to the following noun by the genitive *n*, indicating that this word was actually being treated as a noun and was acting in the same way as the word *ky* 'other' (see ¶58). Both *mꜣʿ* 'true' and *mꜣw* 'new' were usually replaced by the corresponding noun after the preposition *n* : *n mꜣʿ.t* 'true', *n mꜣy* 'new'.

¶56 There are three adjective equivalents which occur in ʿOnchsheshonqy which always took a suffix pronoun referring back to the modified noun.

	*ḏr⸗* (< *r ḏr⸗*)	all, entire
	*rn⸗* (< *n rn⸗*)	(above-)named/mentioned
	*wʿ.ṱ⸗*	alone, only

E85:3/4–5 

pꜣ tꜣ ḏr⸗f 'the entire land'

E86:1/13–14 

nt nb nt mtw pꜣ wr swnw ḏr⸗w

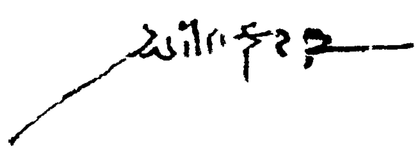
'everything which belongs to the Chief Physician, entirely'

E87:2/18 

pꜣ rmṯ rn⸗f 'the above-named man'

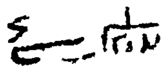
E88:17/16 

wʿ.ṱ⸗k 'you alone'

E89:17/12 

mw wʿ.ṱ⸗f 'water alone'

¶57 Any adjective (but not the adjective equivalents mentioned in ¶56) could be nominalized, preceded by an article (or other determiner), and serve as a noun (m., f., or pl.).

E90:7/13 

pꜣ ꜥꜣ r-ỉr≠k [2] 'the (man) greater[2] than you'

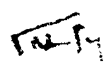
Note that abstracts were treated as feminine.

E91:3/22 

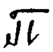
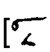
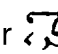
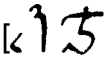
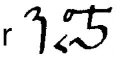
tꜣy≠y bn.t 'my evil', i.e., 'evil against me'

E92:8/7 

tꜣ nfr.t 'good(ness)'

E93:19/25 

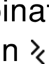
swg 'stupidity'

¶58 As in other stages of Egyptian, the word 'other' was in Demotic actually a noun[3] (m.  *ky;* f. [ or ] *k.t;* pl. [] *ky.w* or [ or ] *k.t-ẖ.t*). As such it might be used independently

E94:6/10 

pꜣ nkt n ky 'the property of another'

or might precede another noun, with which it agreed in number and gender.

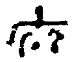
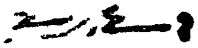
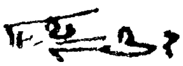
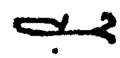
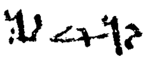
¶59 Note that *nb* 'all, every' or 'any' was not an adjective but a determiner. The noun it modified was always in the singular. *Nb* could not be nominalized; instead, the combination *nt nb* (with the relative pronoun *nt*) was used; see E86, above. *Nb* was written  for masculine and feminine.

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[2]Note that the comparative form of the adjective was formed using the preposition *r*.
[3]Forms scanned from Spiegelberg (1925), *Demotische Grammatik*, pp. 45–46, §§77–80.

SḎM≠F OF ADJECTIVE VERBS

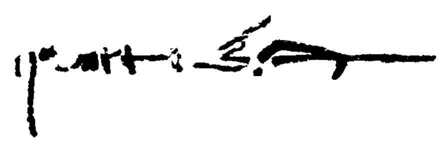
¶60 The indicative *sḏm≠f* of most adjective verbs contained an initial ʔ *nꜣ* (whose origin is unknown).

 or 	*nꜣ-ʿ(ꜣ)*	to be large, be great		*nꜣ-nfr*	to be good
	*nꜣ-ʿn*	to be beautiful, be pleasing		*nꜣ-ʿšꜣ*	to be plentiful, be numerous
	*nꜣ-mr*	to be ill (in a part of the body)		*nꜣ-nḏm* [*nꜣ-ntm*]	to be sweet, be pleasant
	*nꜣ-ḫy*	to be high		*nꜣ-ḫm*	to be small
	*nꜣ-sbꜣ*	to be educated		*nꜣ-šʿṯ*	to be cut
	*nꜣ-m-šs*	to be significant		*nꜣ-tḥr*	to be sad

This indicative *sḏm≠f* could have either past or present tense meaning; the tense must be determined by the context.

E95:12/8 

nꜣ-nfr ḥꜣṯ≠f 'His heart is (or, 'was') good (i.e., 'happy').'

E96:10/2 

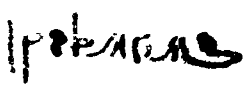
m-ỉr[4] *ḏ nꜣ-nfr≠y (n) sẖ* 'Don't[4] say, "I am good (at) writing."'

¶61 This initial *nꜣ* was not used in the subjunctive *sḏm≠f* of these adjective verbs;

E97:14/12 

m-ỉr tỉ ʿšꜣ nꜣy≠k mt.w(t)

'Don't talk too much!' (lit., 'Don't let your words be numerous!')

E98:20/18 

my ʿ(ꜣ)y nꜣ rmṯ.w 'Let the men be great!'

[4]For the vetitive *m-ỉr*, see below, ¶67.

¶61 *Sḏm⸗f* of Adjective Verbs (*cont.*)

nor was it used in the *sḏm⸗f* used in the aorist,

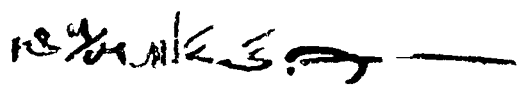
E99:8/13



ḫr ʿšꜣ nkt 'Property is plentiful.'

in the qualitative

E100:28/2

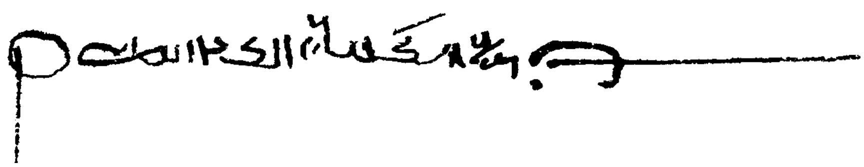


m-ỉr ḏ tw⸗y ʿšꜣ nkt

'Don't say, "I have much property."'
(lit., 'I am numerous [of] property.')

or in the infinitive forms (see lesson 5, ¶48).

E101:17/25



m-ỉr ʿšꜣy ḏ mt.t ỉỉr-ḥr pꜣy⸗k ḥry

'Don't talk too much in the presence of your superior!'

DEMONSTRATIVES

¶62 The demonstrative (m.  *pꜣy;* f.  *tꜣy;* pl.  *nꜣy*) might be used as a pronoun meaning 'this' or 'these' (the plural was often used for the "neuter" 'this') or as an article, modifying a following noun, with which it agreed in number and gender.

E102:1/15



m-sꜣ nꜣy 'after this'

E103:15/5



pꜣy rmṯ 'this man'

'That', as opposed to 'this', was usually expressed using the periphrasis *nt n-ỉm⸗w* (> ⲉⲧⲙ̄ⲙⲁⲩ) 'which is there'; e.g., **pꜣ rmṯ nt n-ỉm⸗w* 'that man' (lit., 'the man who is there').

POSSESSIVES

¶63 Possessives consisted of the definite article, which agreed in number and gender with the noun being possessed, plus , plus a suffix pronoun, which agreed in number and gender with the possessor. Exceptions: 1st singular did not write the suffix pronoun *y;* 2nd masculine *k* had coalesced with the ; variant 3rd person forms were based on . The following are only a selection of possible forms; especially variable is use or non-use of superscript differentiators for *tꜣ* and *nꜣ*.

PERSON	MASCULINE		FEMININE		PLURAL	
1 s.		*pꜣy≠y*		*tꜣy≠y*	[ ]	*nꜣy≠y*
2 m. s.	or	*pꜣy≠k*	or	*tꜣy≠k*		*nꜣy≠k*
2 f. s.	[ ]	*pꜣy≠t*	[ ]	*tꜣy≠t*	[ ]	*nꜣy≠t*
3 m. s.	or	*pꜣy≠f*	or	*tꜣy≠f*	or or	*nꜣy≠f*
3 f. s.		*pꜣy≠s*		*tꜣy≠s*		*nꜣy≠s*
1 pl.	[ ]	*pꜣy≠n*	[ ]	*tꜣy≠n*	[ ]	*nꜣy≠n*
2 pl.	[ ]	*pꜣy≠tn*	[ ]	*tꜣy≠tn*	[ ]	*nꜣy≠tn*
3 pl.	[ ]	*pꜣy≠w*		*tꜣy≠w*		*nꜣy≠w*

¶64 The possessives could be used independently, as a pronoun, in which case the 1 s. included the suffix pronoun *y* (*pꜣy≠y*, *nꜣy≠y*, etc.).

E104:13/5 

pꜣy≠s 'her own'

¶65 However, since the older usage of attaching a suffix pronoun directly to the noun being possessed was of very limited usage in Demotic (see lesson 3, ¶37), the most common use of the possessive was as an article, modifying a following noun.

E105:13/22 

pꜣy≠s hy 'her husband'

E106:10/23 

tꜣy≠y mw.t 'my mother'

E107:12/17 

tꜣy≠k mt.(t) nfr.t 'your good deed'

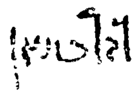
E108:1/14 

nꜣy≠f sn.w 'his brothers'

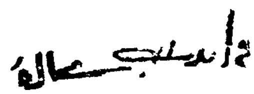
N.B. No more than one determiner (see lesson 1, ¶11, for the definition of determiner) should be attached to any one noun (although exceptions to this rule occur in some texts). Therefore, a phrase such as 'all his brothers' would

be written not ∅*nꜣy≠f sn.w nb* but **nꜣy≠f sn.w ḏr≠w*, using the adjective equivalent discussed in ¶56.

¶66 The possessive prefix (m. *pa;* f. [or] *ta[-nt]*; pl. or *na*) (< *pꜣ n*, *tꜣ n*, *nꜣ n*) meant, literally, 'he of', 'she of', or 'those of' the following noun. It was common in personal names; see ¶71.

E109:10/11 

pa nꜣ ḥtr.w 'the groom' (lit., 'he of the horses')

E110:8/2 

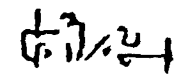
na pꜣy≠k tmy 'the people of your town'

E111:2/17 

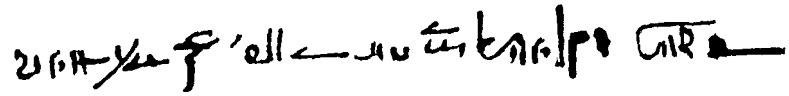
na ẖ.(t)-pr 'the household' (or, 'bodyguard')

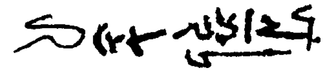
EXERCISES

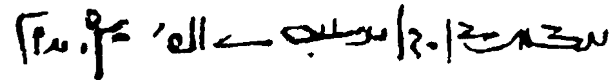
A. Transliterate and translate the following:

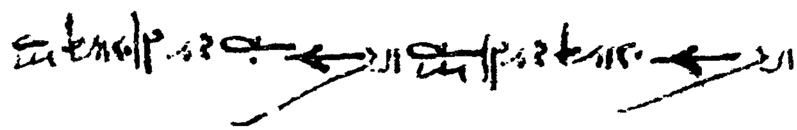

*1.


*2.

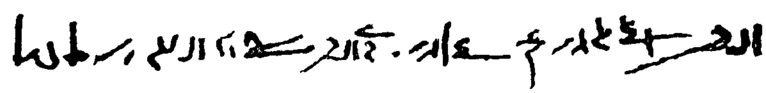

*3.


*4.

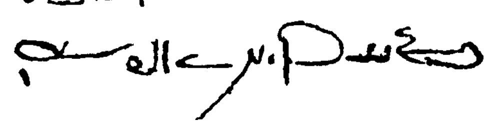

*5.


6.


*7.


*8.


*9.


*10.

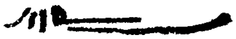
B. Translate the following into Demotic:

1. The above-mentioned man will come to this district.
2. The evil man killed numerous people this year.
3. His daughter came carrying rations.
4. Their instruction is a great thing.
5. Great men are trusted (i.e., One normally trusts great men).
6. The superior of the entire town is greater than I.
7. The scribe is sad on account of this evil deed. (Do two ways!)
8. Potsherds are more numerous than papyrus. (Do two ways!)
9. My mother will give it to me.
10. The good character of a poor man is his profit.

LESSON 7

IMPERATIVE

¶67 Most verbs had no separate imperative form; the infinitive was used as the imperative. However, the dependent pronoun, not the suffix pronoun, was used to indicate a pronominal direct object after an infinitive used as the imperative. A small number of verbs had special imperative forms.

DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION	DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION
	*r-ỉny*	bring!		*ỉỉry*	do!, make!
	*r-ḏy*	say!		*my* (< *tỉ*	cause!, give! 'to give, cause')
	*my-sbꜣ*	instruct!		*my-ḫpr*	acquire!
	*m-ỉr*	do not...!			

E112:13/15 

r-ḏy mt.t mꜣʿ.t n rmṯ nb 'Speak the truth to all men!'

Note that the vetitive *m-ỉr* was followed by the infinitive of the lexical verb.

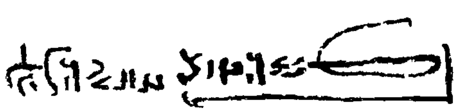
E113:23/22 

m-ỉr tỉ ꜣbyn ỉỉr-ḥr rmṯ ʿꜣ

'Don't put a poor man in the presence of a rich man!'

OPTATIVE

¶68 Those main clause prospective *sḏm≠f* forms which do occur in Demotic (see lesson 3) are often best translated as optatives.

E114:4/2 

ʿnḫ ḥr≠k pꜣy≠y nb ʿꜣ

'May your face live, my great lord!'[1]

[1] An oath formula.

¶68 Optative (*cont.*)

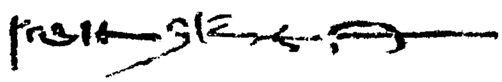
Much more common, however, is the construction *my* (the imperative of *tỉ* 'to cause') plus the subjunctive *sḏm=f*. Such a form is often best translated literally 'cause that' or 'let'.

E115:3/19–20 

my ỉn=w ꜥnḫ-ššnqy

'Cause that ꜥOnchsheshonqy be brought!'

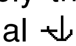
The corresponding negative forms consisted of the vetitive *m-ỉr* plus the infinitive *tỉ* plus the subjunctive *sḏm=f*.

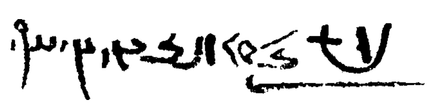
E116:4/14–15 

m-ỉr tỉ ṯ=w n=f ḏmꜥ

'Don't let a papyrus roll be taken to him!'

QUESTIONS

¶69 There are two types of questions, questions for specification and questions of interrogation. The first ask "who, what, why?," etc., use interrogative pronouns or adverbs, and have already been discussed in the appropriate sections above. The second, yes or no questions, might be unmarked in the writing (presumably there was a change of stress in the spoken version) or might be marked by an initial  *ỉn*. *ꜣIn* could presumably precede any main clause form.

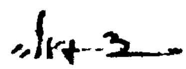
E117:3/15 

ỉn ḏ=k st ỉỉr-ḥr rmṯ n pꜣ tꜣ

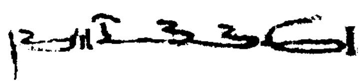
'Did you tell them to anyone at all?'

PROPER NAMES

¶70 Names of gods and geographical names must be learned like other vocabulary. The following occur in ʿOnchsheshonqy.

DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION	DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION
	*ꜣs.t*	Isis		*Wsỉr*	Osiris
	*Ptḥ*	Ptah		*Nt*	Neith
	*Pꜣ-rʿ*	Pre		*Ḥʿpy*	Hapy
	*Ḥr*	Horus		*Ḏḥwty*	Thoth
	ʾImn	Amun			
	*ʾIwn*	Heliopolis		*Mn-nfr*	Memphis

¶71 Many personal names consisted of the name of a god (or king) compounded with an element indicating a relationship with that god.

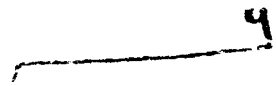
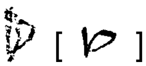
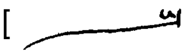
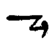
DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION
	*Ptḥ-ỉỉr-tỉ-s* [2]	Ptah is the one who gave him
	*Rʿ-ms*	Born of Ra
	*ʿnḫ-ššnqy*	May Sheshonq live!

There were also some very common initial elements of theophorous names, none of which occurs in ʿOnchsheshonqy. Among these are *pa* 'he of'; [ ] *ta* 'she of'; *pꜣ-tỉ* 'the one whom…gave'; *tꜣ-tỉ* 'the (f.) one whom…gave'; *pꜣ-šr* 'the son of…'; *tꜣ-šr.t* 'the daughter of…'; and *ns* (var. *ỉs*) 'the one belonging to …' (see ¶19). In filiations, 'son of' was written *sꜣ;* 'daughter of' was written *ta* 'she of'. For a compilation of personal (not royal) names occurring in Demotic texts, see Erich Lüddeckens et al. (1980–), *Demotisches Namenbuch*.

[2]Note the very abbreviated writing of *-ỉỉr-tỉ-s* in personal names.

NUMBERS

¶72 The cardinal numbers are as follows:[3]

DEMOTIC	NUMBER	DEMOTIC	NUMBER	DEMOTIC	NUMBER
	1	[]	10		100
	2		20		200
	3	[]	30	[]	300
[ or ]	4	[]	40		
[]	5	[]	50		
[]	6	[]	60		
[]	7	[]	70		
	8	[]	80		
[]	9	[]	90		
[]	10		100		1,000

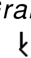
¶73 The numbers from 1 through 10, and 20, also had a feminine form with a feminine ‹ *t* under the number (beside the number in the case of the number 9).[4] In year dates and in connection with land, silver, etc., the feminine *t* was often omitted. In ʿOnchsheshonqy the number (with the exception of the number 1,000) always followed the noun, in bookkeeping style, and showed a feminine *t* if the noun was feminine. Note that the noun was always singular.

E118:2/17 

s 2 '2 men'

E119:2/5 

sp 3 '3 times'

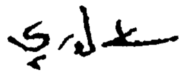
[3]Numbers in brackets scanned from Spiegelberg (1925), *Demotische Grammatik*, p. 47, §82.
[4]The feminine form of 1 was written identically with the indefinite article:  .

E120:2/20



ṯ-wnw.(t) 8.t 'hour 8'

E121:11/7



rnp.(t) 20.t '20 years'

E122:14/9



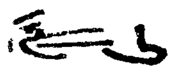
s 100 '100 men'

E123:18/9



ḥḏ 200 '200 (pieces of) silver'

E124:19/18



1000 bꜣk '1,000 servants'

[In other texts the numbers other than 2 preceded the noun, except in measurements, etc., where bookkeeping style was preferred.]

¶74 The ordinal numbers consisted of *mḥ* (lit., 'completing') plus the cardinal number. This compound followed the noun.

E125:15/10



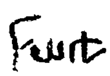
ḥḏ mḥ-1 'first money'

CONJUNCTIONS AND INTERJECTIONS

¶75

DEMOTIC		USAGE
	ỉn	introduced "yes or no" questions (see ¶69)
	ỉn-nꜣ	introduced "real" conditional clauses (see lesson 10, ¶106)
	hwn-nꜣw	introduced "unreal" conditional clauses (see lesson 10, ¶110)
	hmy	"contrary-to-fact" particle, translated 'would that', or similar (see lesson 10, ¶110)
	ꜥrw	'perhaps', followed by a conjunctive (see lesson 10, ¶115) or a circumstantial (see lesson 8)
	ỉ	'o' introduced a vocative
	twys	'Here is/are' (often best left untranslated), followed by a noun or a complete sentence
	r-ḏbꜣ ḫpr	'because', followed by a complete main clause[5]
	ḏ	introduced direct and indirect quotes; in the former it is equivalent to quotation marks, in the latter it may be translated 'that'
		introduced a clause serving as direct object, especially after verbs with a redundant pronominal direct object (see ¶39)
		or can be translated 'because', 'for', 'in order that', 'so that', or 'namely'

E126:4/19



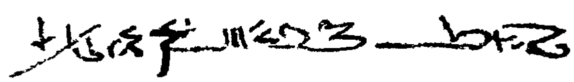
ỉ Pꜣ-Rꜥ 'O Pre'

E127:4/17



twys tꜣ mtr.t 'Here is the instruction.'

E128:4/11

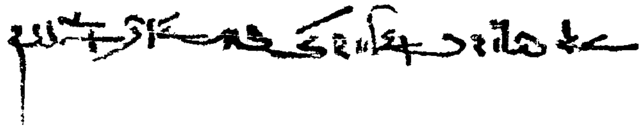


r-ḏbꜣ ḫpr wn mtw=y wꜥ ḥ̭ꜥ(m)-ẖl

'because I have a young boy'

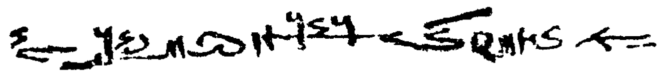
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[5]Cf. the preposition r-*ḏbꜣ* 'because' followed by a noun or pronoun.

E129:4/14 

ḥn s Pr-ʿꜣ ḏ my ṯ≈w n≈f gsṱ

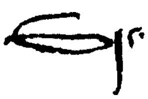
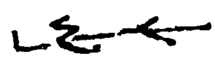
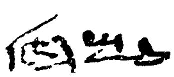
'Pharaoh ordered (it), "Let him be taken a palette!"'

E130:3/22 

r tỉ gm≈y s ḏ st sḏny r-ỉr≈k

'in order to inform me [lit., 'cause that I find (it) out'], "They are conspiring against you."'

VOCABULARY

DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION	DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION
	*mšʿ*	to walk		*ʿš*	to call
	*fy*	to carry		*ḫꜣʿ*	to leave
	*sḏm*	to hear, listen		*mwt*	to die
	*ỉr*	to make, do		*wnm*	to eat
	*ʿnḫ*[6]	to live		*sḫ*	to write
	*hb*	to send, write letter		*ms*	to give birth
	*ḥms*	to sit, live, dwell		*nw*	to look + *r* at
	*šm*	to go + *n≈* away		*tỉ-šm*	to send (+ animate object)
	*mst*	to hate		*mr*	to love

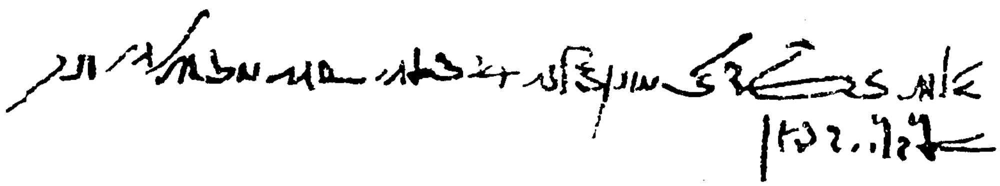
[6]Written without the initial ʿ in personal names; e.g., *ʿnḫ-ššnqy*, above, ¶71.

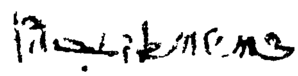
EXERCISES

A. Transliterate and translate the following:

 1.

 2.

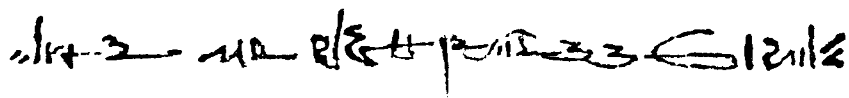
 *3.

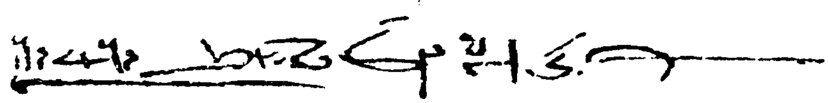
 4.

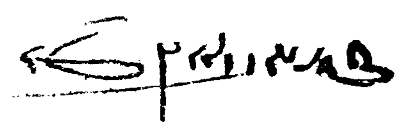
 *5.

 *6.

 *7.

 *8.

 *9.

 10.

B. Translate the following into Demotic:

1. Tell me about the character of the king!
2. Can the old woman walk to the street? (use the aorist)
3. O my husband, carry this vessel to the storehouse!
4. Did you look at the form of the 2 temples of Thoth?
5. The scribe said to the priest, "Who are you?"
6. Let me listen to your instructions!
7. It is better to listen than to command.
8. Let me send you the roll of papyrus; don't send me any sherds!
9. I will send you to sit (use *r* + infinitive) in the house.
10. I saw 3 men in the street.

L E S S O N   8

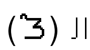
CONVERTERS

¶76 "Converters" are "sentence markers" (see ¶9) which, when prefixed to a clause, modify the meaning or syntactical function of the entire clause. The circumstantial converter, when prefixed to a main clause, converted the main clause to a circumstantial clause; the relative converter changed a main clause into a relative clause. The imperfect set the tense of the main clause one step (further) into the past; clauses preceded by the imperfect converter remained main clauses and might in turn be preceded by the circumstantial or relative converter. The second tense converter nominalized the clause so that it could serve as subject in a present tense construction before a (stressed) adverbial.

CIRCUMSTANTIALS

¶77 The circumstantial converter  *ỉw* could be prefixed to any main clause form except the imperative or optative. The converted clause indicated a circumstance the tense of which is relative to that of the verb of the main clause. Thus a circumstantial present indicated a circumstance at the same time as the main verb (whatever the tense of the main verb), the circumstantial past a circumstance which happened prior to the main verb (whatever the tense of the main verb), etc.

¶78 The circumstantial present consisted of the converter *ỉw* plus the subject plus an adverbial (including infinitives or a qualitative). The proclitic pronouns were replaced by the suffix pronouns.

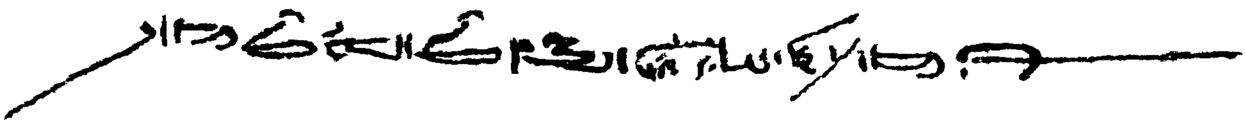
PERSON	DEMOTIC		PERSON	DEMOTIC	
1 s.	[]	*ỉw≠y*	1 pl.	[]	*ỉw≠n*
2 m. s.		*ỉw≠k*	2 pl.	[]	*ỉw≠tn*
2 f. s.	[]	*ỉw≠t*			
3 m. s.		*ỉw≠f*	3 pl.	 []	*ỉw≠w*
3 f. s.		*ỉw≠s*			
Noun		*ỉw (wn)*			

As with the main clause, an indefinite noun subject was preceded by *wn* (after the *ỉw*). The adverbial following the subject in a circumstantial present tense clause could be, like that of the main clause present tense, an adverb, prepositional phrase, qualitative, or infinitive. The same restrictions were placed on the infinitive in the circumstantial present as in the main clause present tense (i.e., the oblique or durative direct object rule [see ¶51] also applied to the circumstantial present).

¶79 The circumstantial of non-present tense forms consisted of *ỉw* and the main clause form except that when the *ỉw* converter and the *ỉw* of the future were written

identically, they often coalesced and the circumstantial future, like the main clause future, was written *ỉw=f (r) sḏm*. Such forms are identified as circumstantial future forms by their use.

E131:6/14

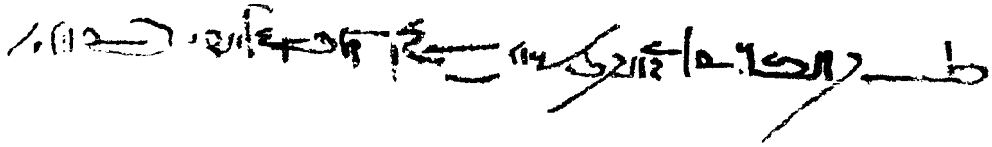


m-ỉr hb lh̭ n mt.t ꜥꜣ.t ỉw wn rmṯ rḫ ỉw ỉw=k rḫ hb=f

'Don't send a fool on an important matter there being a wise man whom you could (lit., 'will be able to') send!'[1]

¶80 In addition to their use to indicate a circumstance, circumstantial clauses, including circumstantial nominal clauses, are found regularly after verbs of incomplete predication, such as *ḫpr* 'to happen' and *gm* 'to find'.

E132:4/7–8

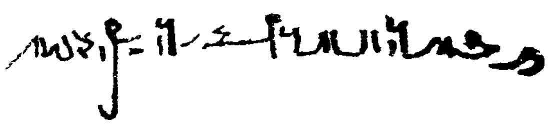


ḫpr=f ỉw ḫr ỉn=w tꜣy=f ḫr.t r bnr pr Pr-ꜥꜣ n mn.(t)

'It happened that his food was brought out from the palace daily.'

and after particles such as *hmy* 'would that!'.

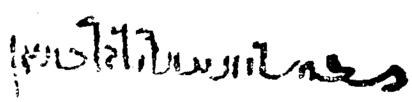
E133:11/2



hmy ỉw=y swtn ḏr.ṱ=y

'Would that I might extend my hand!'

E134:10/11



hmy ỉw pꜣy=y sn pa nꜣ ḥtr.w

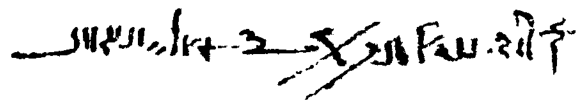
'Would that my brother were the groom (lit., 'he of the horses')!'

¶81 As in other stages of Egyptian, relative clauses could be used only after definite antecedents. The Egyptian equivalent of an English relative clause after an indefinite

[1] The circumstantial future is being used as a virtual relative, on which see below, ¶81.

antecedent was a circumstantial clause forming what is called a virtual relative. There was great variety among such forms.

E135:3/16



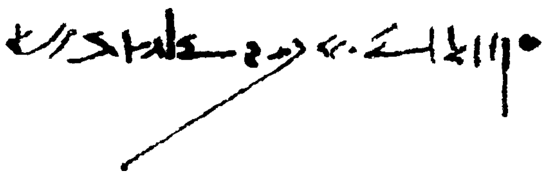
wꜥ wꜥb n Pꜣ-Rꜥ ỉw⸗f ty n Mn-nfr ỉrm⸗y
'a priest of Pre who is here in Memphis with me'[2]

E136:9/8



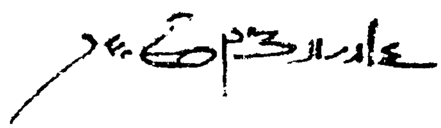
mt.t ỉw⸗s pḥ r ỉḥ.t
'a matter which concerns (lit., 'reaches') a cow'[3]

E137:8/9



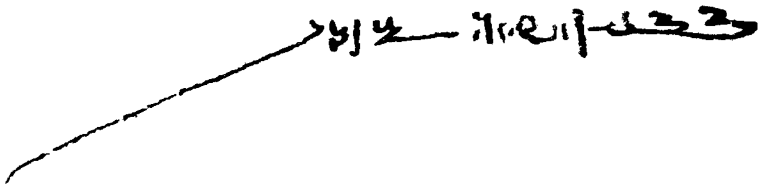
sẖ ỉw⸗w ṯ n-ỉm⸗f r nꜣ ꜥ(.wy).w (n) ḥrr
'a scribe who is being taken to prison (lit., 'houses of detention')'[4]

E138:12/12



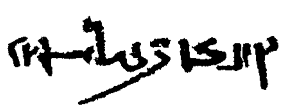
ꜥ(.wy) ỉw wn rmṯ rḫ n-ỉm⸗f
'a house in which there is a wise man'[5]

E139:20/14



šš̭ṯ ỉw nꜣ-ꜥ(ꜣ) r⸗f 'a window whose opening is great'[6]

E140:13/3



rmṯ ỉw ỉr⸗w n⸗f mt.(t) nfr.t
'a man for whom something good was done'[7]

---

[2]The circumstantial clause is present tense, the predicate being an adverb.

[3]The circumstantial clause is present tense, the predicate being an absolute infinitive.

[4]The circumstantial clause is present tense, the predicate being an absolute infinitive with oblique object.

[5]The circumstantial clause is present tense, the predicate being a prepositional phrase while the subject is an undefined noun preceded by *wn*.

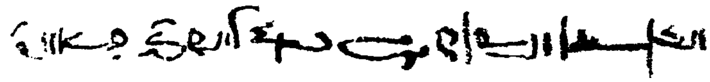
[6]The predicate of the circumstantial clause contains an adjective verb.

[7]The predicate of the circumstantial clause consists of the past tense *sḏm⸗f*.

E141:17/21 

sḥm.t ỉw mr≈w s 'a woman who is loved'[8]

¶82 A circumstantial clause could also be the stressed adverbial adjunct after a second tense (see lesson 9).

E142:3/20–21 

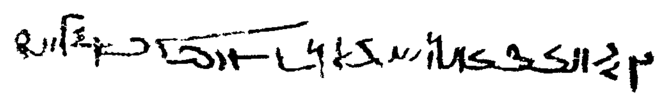
ỉỉr≈w ỉy ỉw ỉn≈w s m-bꜣḥ Pr-ꜥꜣ n tꜣy ḥty

'Bringing him (lit., 'having fetched him') before Pharaoh immediately they returned.'[9]

RELATIVES

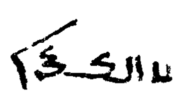
¶83 Relative clauses might modify a preceding definite noun or might themselves be nominalized by prefixing the appropriate definite article. In the latter case, they were used as nouns meaning 'the (one) who/which' and might be used wherever a noun could be used; in the former case, they were adjective equivalents. They could never modify an indefinite noun, for which the circumstantial virtual relative was used (see ¶81). The antecedent had to serve some function in the relative clause. It could be the subject of the relative clause (English "who" or "which"), or it could be the object of the verb or the object of a preposition (or possessive).

¶84 If the antecedent was identical with the subject of the relative clause and the tense of the relative clause was past, the "past participle" was used. This consisted of the past participle of the verb *ỉr* 'to do', written  *ỉỉr*, plus the infinitive of the lexical verb.

E143:4/5 

rmṯ nb ỉỉr mtr r pꜣ ꜥš-sḥn bn Pr-ꜥꜣ

'every man who had agreed to the evil plot (against) Pharaoh'

E144:19/17 

pꜣ ỉỉr mwt 'the one who died'

---

[8]The predicate of the circumstantial clause consists of the present tense *sḏm≈f* of the verb *mr* (see ¶28).

[9]The predicate of the circumstantial clause is a past tense *sḏm≈f*.

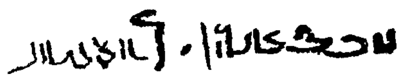
¶85 If the antecedent was identical with the subject of the relative clause and the tense of the relative clause was present, the present participle was used. In this case, the relative converter ⊃ *nt* (< *nty*) replaced the noun subject in the relative clause, which thus consisted of *nt* and the adverbial "predicate," which adverbial "predicate" followed the regular rules for present tense clauses.

E145:2/21



pꜣ nt bnr 'the one who is outside'[10]

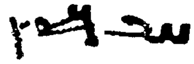
E146:1/17



pꜣ nt mtr.w n ḥꜣ.ṱ≠y

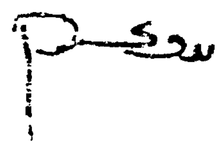
'what is pleasing to me (lit., 'to my heart')'[11]

E147:26/17



pꜣ nt skꜣ 'the one who plows'[12]

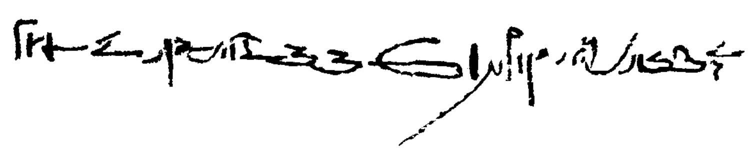
E148:10/22



pꜣ nt ỉr ḥry 'the one who acts as ruler'[13]

¶86 These were the only two main clause forms with participial equivalents. In all other cases, i.e., if the tense was other than past or present or if the antecedent was identical with some element other than the subject of the relative clause, the reference to the antecedent was pronominalized but could not be omitted. If the antecedent was identical with some element in the relative clause other than the subject and the tense of the relative clause was past, the "relative form" was used. This relative form was written *r-sḏm≠f* (*ỉ-ỉr≠f* with the verb *ỉr* 'to do, make').

E149:4/17



tꜣ mtr.t r-sẖ ỉt-nṯr ʿnḫ-ššnqy sꜣ Ṯ-nfr

'the instruction which the God's Father ʿOnchsheshonqy, the son of Tjay-nefer, wrote'

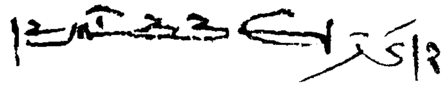
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[10]Predicate is an adverb.

[11]Predicate is a qualitative.

[12]Predicate is an absolute infinitive.

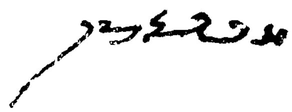
[13]Predicate is a construct infinitive with undetermined noun object.

E150:2/16 

n3y-ḏ[14] *n≠f ᶜnḫ-ššnqy*

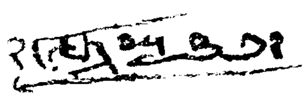
'this which ᶜOnchsheshonqy said to him'

¶87 The relative converter *nt* was used in all cases which did not conform to the requirements for using a participial form or the "relative form." This converter was directly prefixed to a main clause *sḏm≠f* of an adjective verb

E151:10/23 

p3 nt n3-ᶜn≠f 'that which is pleasing'

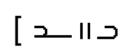
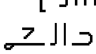
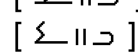
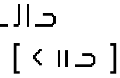
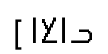
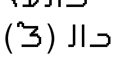
and to the *sḏm≠f* of *mr* 'to love' and *mst* 'to hate' with present tense meaning (see ¶28).

E152:15/23 

t3 nt mst≠k s

'that which (or, 'the one whom') you hate'

¶88 In all other cases, the relative converter was prefixed to the appropriate circumstantial form.[15] Thus the present tense relative where the antecedent was identical with some element of the relative clause other than the subject was written *nt* plus *ỉw* plus (suffix pronoun) subject plus adverbial.

PERSON	DEMOTIC		PERSON	DEMOTIC	
1 s.		*nt ỉw≠y*	1 pl.		*nt ỉw≠n*
2 m. s.		*nt ỉw ỉw≠k*	2 pl.		*nt ỉw≠tn*
2 f. s.		*nt ỉw≠t*			
3 m. s.		*nt ỉw≠f*	3 pl.		*nt ỉw≠w*
3 f. s.		*nt ỉw ỉw≠s*			
Noun		*nt ỉw (wn)*			

[14]For the writing of *n3* + the *r* of the relative form as *n3y*, see below, ¶90.

[15]The combination *nt* + circumstantial form could, in most instances, be interpreted rather *nt* + *ỉw*, a phonetic spelling of old *nty*, followed by the main clause form. However, in the circumstantial present *nt ỉw* + main clause would have produced a form **nt ỉw tw≠y* (corresponding to Late Egyptian *nty tw≠y*) whereas the actual form was *nt ỉw* + suffix pronoun, i.e., graphically identical with *nt* + circumstantial *ỉw≠*. Thus, in this case, at least, the Demotic scribe had reinterpreted *nt* + *ỉw* as *nt* and the circumstantial.

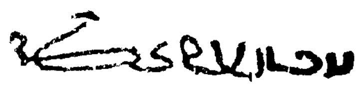
This adverbial could be any of the possible adverbial "predicates" of present tense sentences

E153:15/13



tꜣ mt.t nt ỉw ỉw⸗k mꜣꜥ.w n-ỉm⸗s
'the thing by which you are justified'[16]

E154:13/19



pꜣ nt ỉw ỉw⸗s ỉr-rḫ⸗s 'that which she knows'[17]

E155:2/14



nꜣ mt.w(t) nt ỉw ỉw⸗k ḏ n-ỉm⸗w
'the words which you are saying (them)'[18]

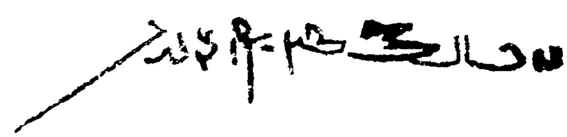
E156:2/19



tꜣ knḥꜣ.t nt ỉw Pr-ꜥꜣ n-ỉm⸗s
'the private chamber where Pharaoh is'[19]

Wn is retained in clauses where the subject is an indefinite noun.

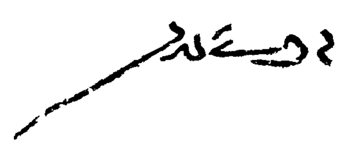
E157:14/13



pꜣ nt ỉw wn nkt (n-)ḏr.ṱ⸗f
'the one who has property in his hand'[20]

However, the durative direct object rule was often not applied, allowing the use of the pronominal infinitive in the present tense.

E158:14/4

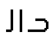


tꜣ nt ṯ.ṱ⸗f 'that which seizes him'

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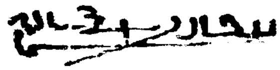
[16]Predicate is a qualitative.
[17]Predicate is qualitative of the verb *rḫ.*
[18]Predicate is an absolute infinitive with oblique object.
[19]Predicate is a prepositional phrase.
[20]Predicate is a prepositional phrase.

¶89 The relative of the future consisted of the relative converter *nt* and the circumstantial future *ỉw≠f (r) sḏm*.

PERSON	DEMOTIC		PERSON	DEMOTIC	
1 s.		*nt ỉw≠y*	1 pl.	[]	*nt ỉw≠n*
2 m. s.		*nt ỉw ỉw≠k*	2 pl.	[]	*nt ỉw≠tn*
2 f. s.	[]	*nt ỉw≠t*			
3 m. s.		*nt ỉw≠f*	3 pl.		*nt ỉw≠w*
3 f. s.		*nt ỉw ỉw≠s*			
Noun		*nt ỉw*			

Note that the (helping) verb *wn* never occurred in such sentences. Note also that even if the subject of the relative was identical with the antecedent, the subject could never be deleted, only pronominalized.

E159:6/4

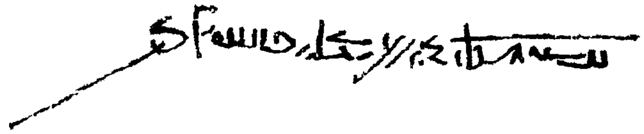


pꜣ nt ỉw≠f šms.ṯ≠k

'the one who will follow (or, 'serve') you'

Although the pronominal infinitive might occasionally occur in present tense relatives (as above, E158), it was fairly common in future tense ones.

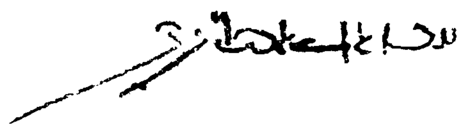
E160:4/20



pꜣ gy (n) ḫꜥr r tš nt ỉw Pꜣ-Rꜥ ỉr≠f

'the manner of raging against a district which Pre will do'

E161:10/14



pꜣ nt ỉw≠w ḥn≠f n≠f

'the one to whom it will be entrusted'

However, the present and future tense relatives with nominal subject identical with the antecedent could never be confused because the subject was deleted from the first (present tense) giving a form *nt* + infinitive (¶85, E145–48) while the subject was never deleted, only pronominalized, in the future (E161, above).

¶90 When a past tense participle or relative form was nominalized, the definite article was written before *ỉỉr* but the *r* of the relative form coalesced in writing with the article and the combination was written identically with the copula pronoun (see ¶23), e.g., ⸝ + ꞁ is written ꞁ.

¶91 Note that with the exception of the two participial forms (present tense *nt* + predicate, past tense *ỉỉr sḏm*), an Egyptian relative clause must always include a resumptive pronoun (or resumptive adverb). The only normal exception was the omission of the resumptive pronoun when it was functioning as the direct object of the verb in a past tense relative clause.

¶92 One can summarize relative clauses in Demotic as follows:

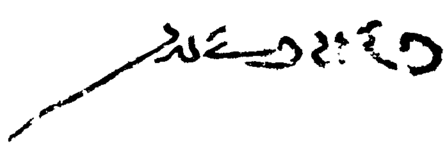
Tense	Subject Identical with Antecedent	Subject Different from Antecedent
Past	*ỉỉr sḏm* (¶84) *nt nꜣ-ꜥn≈f* (¶87)	*r-sḏm≈ f* (¶86) *nt nꜣ-ꜥn pꜣy≈f ꜥ(.wy)* (¶87)
Present	*nt sḏm* (¶85) *nt n pꜣy≈f ꜥ(.wy)* (¶85) *nt nꜣ-ꜥn≈f* (¶87) *nt mr≈f* (¶87)	*nt ỉw≈w sḏm (n-ỉm≈)f* (¶88) *nt ỉw wn rmṯ m pꜣy≈f ꜥ(.wy)* (¶88) *nt nꜣ-ꜥn pꜣy≈f ꜥ(.wy)* (¶87) *nt mr≈w s* (¶87)
Aorist	**nt ḫr sḏm≈f* (no examples attested in ꜥOnchsheshonqy, form only a surmise)	**nt ḫr sḏm≈w s*
Future	*nt ỉw≈f (r) sḏm* (¶89)	*nt ỉw≈w (r) sḏm≈f* (¶89)

¶93 Clues for translating Demotic relative clauses: Omit the relative converter (usually ⊃). If what is left is a full sentence, identify the resumptive pronoun. Then convert that resumptive pronoun to the appropriate relative pronoun in English ("who, which" for subject, "whom" for object, "whose" for possessive) and translate the sentence. If what is left after the relative converter is omitted is not a full sentence, then the Demotic is a participle, the subject is identical with the antecedent, and the clause should be translated using "who, which."

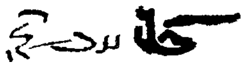
CLEFT SENTENCES

¶94 A cleft sentence consisted of a freestanding pronoun (independent, interrogative, etc.) or a noun plus a defined relative form or participle. This construction stressed the (pro)noun subject and is best translated '(pro)noun is the (one) who…' or 'it is (pro)noun who…'.

E162:14/4



mtws tꜣ nt ṯ.ṯ≈f 'It (f.) is that which seizes him.'

E163:2/21 

nm p3 nt bnr 'Who is (the one who is) outside?'

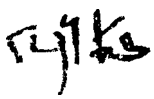
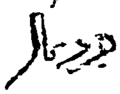
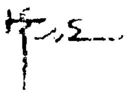
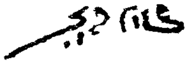
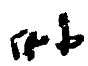
Circumstantial examples occur in ʿOnchsheshonqy after the particle *hmy* 'would that'.

E164:10/22 

hmy ỉw šr ḥry p3 nt ỉr ḥry

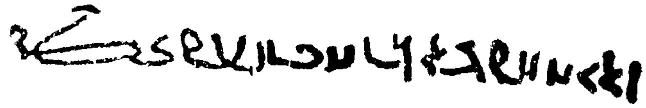
'Would that it were the son of the superior who acted as superior.'

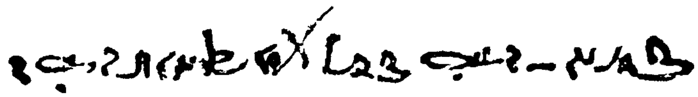
VOCABULARY

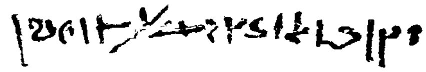
DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION	DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION
	*p.t*	heaven		*mhw.t*	family
	*mỉ.t*	way, road		*3ḏ*	thief
	*ḥf*	snake		*ʿ3*	donkey
	*tn*	fine, fee, tax, levy		*ẖl*	child
	*msḥ*	crocodile		*ỉny*	stone
	*s3wty*	guard		*ms.t*	interest (on a loan)
	*wš* *n wš (n)*	lack 'without'		*pẖr.(t)*	prescription, medication
	*ỉr wš*	to fail		*mw*	water
	*3yt* *(ỉr) 3yt*	need to be in need		*ʿ* *ỉr ʿ ḏr.t*	extent to do one's best

EXERCISES

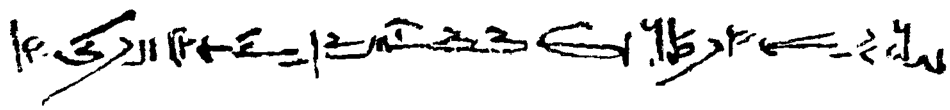
A. Transliterate and translate the following (N.B.: Not all are complete sentences.):

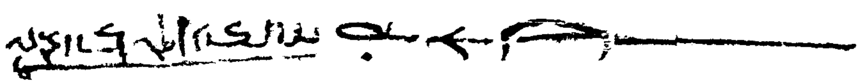

1.

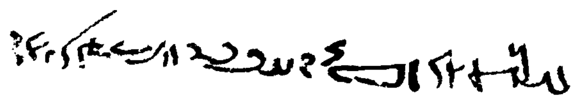

*2.

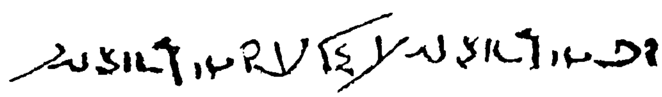

3.


4.


5.


6.


7.


8.


9.


10.

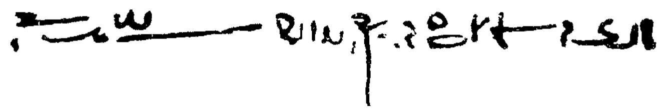
B. Translate the following into Demotic:

1. the words with which he knows how to instruct his son
2. the one who is stout-hearted (lit., great of heart) in evil
3. It happened that ʿOnchsheshonqy, the son of Tjay-nefer, was brought before the king at night.
4. the (things) which he said to him concerning the affair of the king
5. Water is very sweet to the one who has given it.
6. Would that I might know my brother!
7. a child who has a snake
8. Don't send to a town in which you will find need!
9. the (man) whom you will be able to question
10. Give the prescription to the sick (man) who is in need!

L E S S O N 9

SECOND TENSES

¶95 The "second tense" was not a tense but rather a nominalized verb form. It was used as a noun clause in the subject position in a present tense clause before an adverbial; this adverbial element is stressed. It was formed by prefixing the second tense converter  *ỉỉr* to the main clause.

E165:19/24 

ỉỉr nꜣ-nfr pẖr.(t) (n-)ḏr.(t) pꜣy⸗s swnw

'A remedy is good (i.e., effective) only in the hands of its doctor (i.e., the doctor who prescribed it).'

The "adverbial adjunct" being emphasized could be a simple adverb, a prepositional phrase, a circumstantial clause, or some other adverbial clause (e.g., a purpose clause).

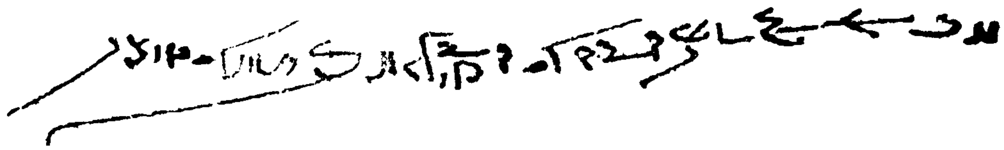
¶96 In the present tense the proclitic pronoun was replaced by the suffix pronoun; the adverbial predicate of a present tense second tense noun clause might be an adverb, a prepositional phrase, a qualitative,

E166:14/13 

ỉỉr pr wn r pꜣ nt ỉw wn nkt (n-)ḏr.ṯ⸗f

'To him who has property in his hand is the house open.'

or an infinitive.

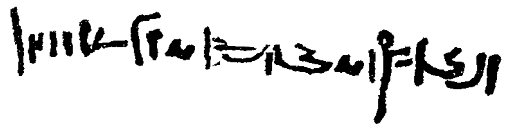
E167:11/10 

pꜣ nt tỉšm tfꜣ r tꜣ p.t ỉỉr⸗f hy r-ḥr⸗f

'The one who sends spittle to the sky, on him it falls.'

Because the durative direct object rule applied, the oblique object had to be used unless the object was an undetermined noun. It was even possible for a second present noun clause to have no actual predicate after the subject.

E168:26/8[1]

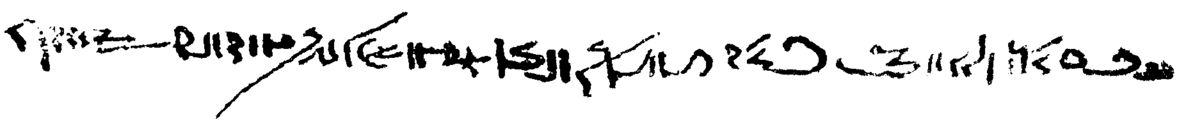


ꞽꞽr⸗w (n-)ḏr.(t) pꜣ šy pꜣ nṯr ḏr⸗w

'From the hand of fate and god they all are.'

¶97 In the future the *ꞽw* was omitted (remember, the "*r* of futurity" was not written in ꜥOnchsheshonqy but does occur in many texts).

E169:23/7



pꜣ nt mr sḥm.t ꞽw wn mtw⸗s hy ꞽꞽr⸗w ẖtb.ṱ⸗f ḥr tꜣy⸗s pnꜥꜣ.t

'He who loves a woman who has a husband, it is upon her (very) doorstep that he will be killed.'

¶98 The past tense, however, was not written *ꞽꞽr* plus indicative *sḏm⸗f*. Rather, the *ꞽꞽr* preceded the combination subject (a suffix pronoun if pronominal) and infinitive (absolute, construct, or pronominal, as with the future).

E170:2/11–12

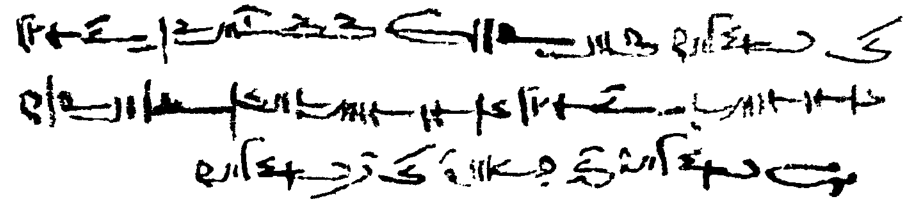


ꞽꞽr⸗w ꞽn.ṱ⸗k r pr Pr-ꜥꜣ ꞽw mn mtw⸗k nkt n pꜣ tꜣ

'It was while you had nothing at all that you were brought to the palace.'

Even though a past tense second tense could be used within a past tense narrative passage, the second tense was being used to stress an adverbial adjunct; it was never a narrative form.

[1]The prepositional phrase "from the hand of fate and god" is the stressed adverbial adjunct, not the predicate of the noun clause.

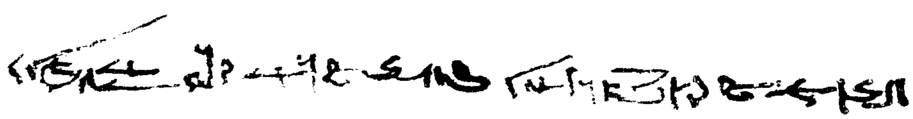
E171:3/19–21 

ḏ Pr-ꜥꜣ my ỉn⸗w ꜥnḫ-ššnqy sꜣ Ṯ-nfr ỉr⸗w ḏḏy r <ꜥnḫ-ššnqy sꜣ> Ṯ-nfr ỉr⸗w ḏḏy ỉỉr⸗w ỉy ỉw ỉn⸗w s m-bꜣḥ Pr-ꜥꜣ n tꜣy ḥty ḏ n⸗f Pr-ꜥꜣ

'The king said, "Let ꜥOnchsheshonqy, the son of Tjay-nefer, be brought!" They ran after <ꜥOnchsheshonqy, the son of> Tjay-nefer; they ran and, bringing (lit., 'having brought') him before Pharaoh immediately, they returned. The king said to him, "…."'

The scribe of Setne Khaemwast created a new auxiliary (*r-ỉr⸗f sḏm*) to distinguish the past tense second tense (*r-ỉr⸗f sḏm*) from the present tense second tense (*ỉỉr⸗f sḏm*).

¶99 It is not uncommon in ꜥOnchsheshonqy to find that the best translation of a sentence with a second tense clause is as an English conditional clause. This does **not** imply that the second tense **was** a conditional clause (on which, see lesson 10, ¶¶106–10, especially ¶109). In most of these sentences the reason for using the second tense was, as elsewhere, to stress an adverbial, and the "conditional" aspect is secondary and due to the translation.

E172:19/25 

ỉỉr⸗w tỉ n⸗k ꜥq r-ḏbꜣ swg my ỉr n⸗k sbꜣ.t (n) bty.t

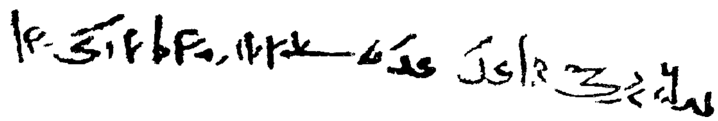
'If it is for stupidity that you are given rations, let education be an abomination to you!'

IMPERFECT

¶100 The imperfect converter [demotic] *wn-nꜣw* derived from the verb *wn* 'to be' and was presumably the *sḏm⸗f* of this verb with past tense meaning (as distinct from the indicative *sḏm⸗f* with present tense meaning written [demotic] *wn* and used in existence clauses, discussed in ¶28). The main clause being converted served as the "subject" of the *sḏm⸗f*; the new unit was also a main clause. The imperfect converter is attested in ꜥOnchsheshonqy only before the present tense and with the negative future (on which, see lesson 11). The converter was prefixed to the main clause form of the present tense with noun subject (definite or indefinite, in the latter case with *wn*

before the indefinite subject) but was prefixed to the circumstantial present form with a pronominal subject. This converter changed the present tense clause into a past tense, but a durative past tense (in contrast to the *sḏm≈f* discussed in lesson 3). Thus, when the adverbial predicate in a present tense following *wn-nꜣw* is an infinitive, the best translation is often 'was doing' rather than 'did'.

E173:2/15–16[2]



mt.t nb.t r-wn-nꜣw {Ḥr} Ḥr-sꜣ-ꜣs.(t) sꜣ Rꜥ-ms ḏ n-ỉm≈w

'the things which Harsiese, the son of Ramose, was saying (them)'

¶101 Frequently the imperfect converter was used with a present tense because of the presence in the present tense clause of a qualitative,

E174:4/3

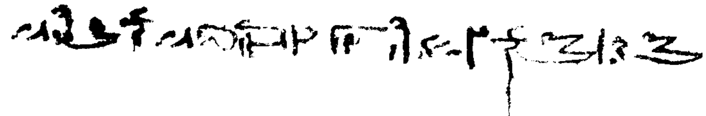


wn-nꜣw ỉw≈y ỉr-rḫ s ḏ

'I knew (it) that…'

adverb, or prepositional phrase, none of which could be used in the "regular" past tense, or because the clause was an existence clause.

E175:2/17



wn-nꜣw wn wꜥ rmṯ na ḫ.(t) pr ḥr tbn w[ꜥ] mꜣꜥ

'A man of the palace was atop a place.'

The imperfect converter could also be prefixed to a nominal sentence.

E176:2/18–19



wn-nꜣw pꜣy≈f grḥ …pꜣy

'It was his night….'

[2]Using the relative form of the imperfect, discussed below.

Note that when the nominal sentence consisted of the construction Noun + Noun + copula pronoun (¶25), the imperfect converter *wn-nꜣw* was placed between the two nouns.

E177:3/17

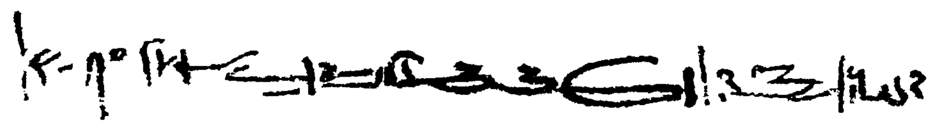


pꜣy≠f ỉṯ wn-nꜣw pꜣ ỉry n pꜣy≠y ỉṯ pꜣy

'His father was the companion of my father.'

¶102 Since the imperfect formed a main clause, it could be converted to a circumstantial or relative form. The former is not attested in ꜥOnchsheshonqy, but it would presumably have consisted of the circumstantial converter *ỉw* and the imperfect clause. The relative of the imperfect was based on the relative form (*r-sḏm≠f*) of the verb *wn*, written  *r-wn-nꜣw*. *R-wn-nꜣw* was prefixed to the basic main clause form if the subject was a noun;

E178:5/14[3]



nꜣ mt.w(t) r-wn-nꜣw ꜥnḫ-ššnqy sꜣ Ṯ-nfr sẖ n-ỉm≠w

'the words which ꜥOnchsheshonqy, the son of Tjay-nefer, was writing (them)'

the noun subject was omitted if identical with the antecedent.

E179:4/8–9[4]



rmṯ nb r-wn-nꜣw (n) nꜣ štq.w

'every man who was (in) (the) prison(s)'

E180:4/10[5]



pꜣ ṯ-šbt r-wn-nꜣw ỉp r-r≠f

'the staff-bearer who was assigned to him'

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[3]The predicate is an absolute infinitive followed by an oblique object.
[4]The predicate is a prepositional phrase.
[5]The predicate is a qualitative.

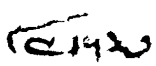
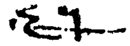
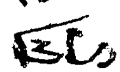
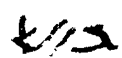
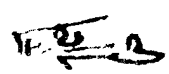
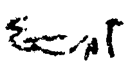
However, if the subject was a pronoun and the antecedent was identical with some other element in the relative clause, *r-wn-nꜣw* was prefixed to the circumstantial present form.

E181:4/17–18[6] 

nꜣ blḏꜥ.w (n) nꜣ ḥn.w r-wn-nꜣw ỉw⸗w ṱ.ṱ⸗w n⸗f r-ẖn ẖr mṱk

'the sherds of the jars which were taken in to him (full) of *mṱk*-wine'

VOCABULARY

DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION	DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION
	*ꜣk* [*ꜣq*]	to perish		*ỉp*	to reckon
	*ꜥḥꜥ*	to stand		*wꜣḥ*	to put, add
	*wḏꜣ*	to be sound		*wṱ*	to send
	*pḥ*	to reach		*nq*	to copulate
	*rt*	to grow		*hwš*	to injure, be offensive
	*hy*	to fall		*ḥrr*	to delay
	*ḥn*	to order, command		*mr*	to be ill, be troubled
	*wy*	to be far (off) + *r* from		*lg*	to remove, stop[7]

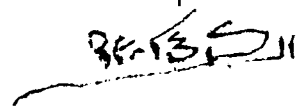
Note also the idiom *tỉ wy* N_1 *r* N_2 'to cause N_1 to release N_2 (lit., 'to cause N_1 to be far from N_2')'

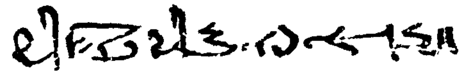
[6]The predicate is a pronominal infinitive.

[7]Sometimes used reflexively, as noted above, ¶39.

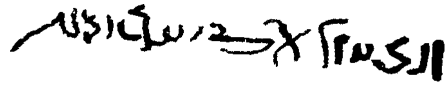
EXERCISES

A. Transliterate and translate the following (N.B.: Not all are complete sentences.):

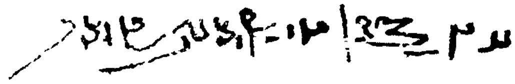

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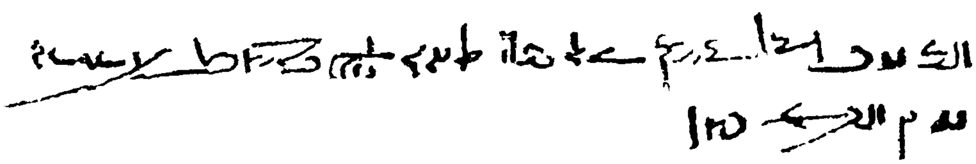

2.


3.

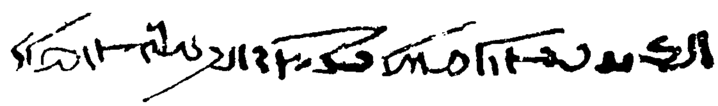

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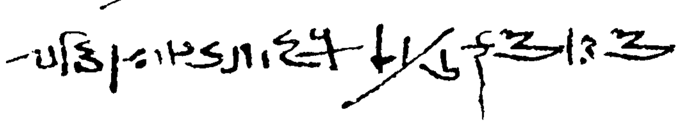

5.


*6.


*7.


*8.


*9.


*10.

B. Translate the following into Demotic:

1. It was for silver that the merchant sent his son to the storehouse.
2. "Let me eat my rations!" said the poor man.
3. The scribe is leaving his (roll of) papyrus (only) because his superior said, "Walk to town!"
4. It was while the child was in the water that the thief threw the stone at the snake.
5. He was the superior of the old man who was carrying the little girl.
6. In water the crocodile grows old; on land the youth grows up.
7. The one who was (being) offensive to his superior perished.
8. "I will be far from need," said the fool.
9. That which grows in the water will be higher than the land.
10. The stone on which the woman was sitting fell into the road.

L E S S O N 1 0

CLAUSE CONJUGATIONS

¶103 Clause conjugations are so called because, with the exception of one use of the conjunctive, they always formed dependent clauses, not complete sentences. Since they were not main clause forms, the clause conjugations could not be preceded by any of the converters. With the exception of the temporal and conditional clauses, the clause containing one of the clause conjugations followed the main clause.

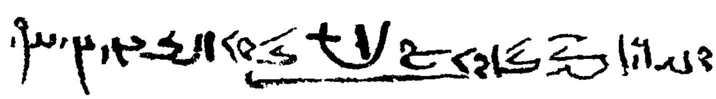
TERMINATIVE

¶104 The form, written *šꜥ-tw⸗f* (plus infinitive) or *šꜥ-mtw⸗f* (plus infinitive), and meaning 'until something happens, has happened', is not attested in ꜥOnchsheshonqy.

TEMPORAL

¶105 As the name implies, this form meant 'when (in the past)' or 'after something (has/had) happened'. It was written *(n-)ḏr.(t)* (or a phonetic equivalent thereof) plus the *sḏm⸗f*. The only example in ꜥOnchsheshonqy was written *n tꜣy* plus the *sḏm⸗f*.

E182:3/15



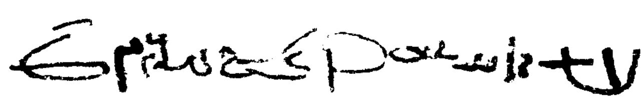
nꜣ mt.w(t) n-tꜣy ḏ⸗w st n⸗k ỉn ḏ⸗k st ỉỉr-ḥr rmṯ n pꜣ tꜣ

'The words, when they were said to you, did you say them to (any) man at all?'

CONDITIONAL

¶106 Real conditional clauses were written differently in Demotic depending on the form of the subject. If the subject of the clause was a noun, the conditional particle *ỉn-nꜣ*[1] was followed by the noun subject and an infinitive.

E183:19/19



ỉn-nꜣ pꜣy⸗k ḥry ḏ n⸗k mt.t rmṯ rḫ

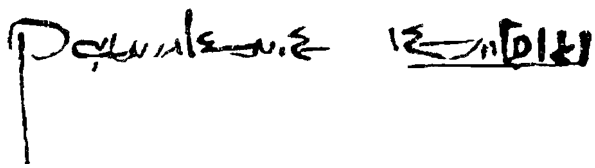
'When your superior tells you something wise'

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[1]To be carefully distinguished from the interrogative particle *ỉn*, on which, see lesson 8, ¶75.

If the subject of the clause was a pronoun, II *ỉw*, rather than *ỉn-nꜣ*, was used before the suffix pronoun and the infinitive.

E184:10/8



ỉw=w ḥwy.[ṯ=k r-]bnr n pꜣ ꜥ(.wy) (n) pꜣy=k ḥry

'If you are thrown out of your master's house'

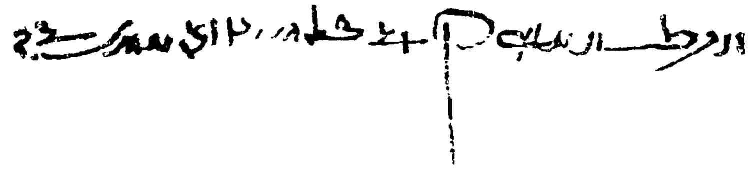
Thus, with a pronominal subject the auxiliary (*ỉw* plus suffix pronoun) was identical in appearance with the future auxiliary and with the circumstantial present.[2] Whatever the subject, the infinitive used after the subject could take a defined direct object without the intermediary of the preposition *n*; i.e., the durative or oblique object rule did not apply to the conditional.

¶107 Conditional clauses may be translated either "if" or "when" (see E183 and 184). In both cases, the conditional clause indicated a point in time in the future different from that of the main clause. This is in contrast to those circumstantial present tense clauses which are translated "when" (or "while") which indicated duration and a time period of the subordinate clause identical with that of the main clause.[3] These different types of English "when"-clauses are very different in Egyptian. Almost any kind of independent main clause could serve as the apodosis of a conditional clause.

¶108 Note the common expression II *ỉw=f ḫpr* 'if (it happens that)', using the conditional auxiliary. The clause following *ḫpr* was usually a circumstantial. It was often a circumstantial nominal sentence or present tense circumstantial with qualitative or adverbial predicate since these constructions did not contain an infinitive which could be fit into the regular form of the conditional clause.

[2]Although the auxiliary with pronominal subject was identical with several other auxiliaries, it is usually fairly easy to determine which auxiliary *ỉw=* was being used in a specific example. Thus, the present (and circumstantial present) auxiliary could have an adverb(ial) or qualitative "predicate," which the future and conditional auxiliaries could not, but the future and conditional auxiliaries could be followed by a direct object, which the present tense auxiliaries could not (see ¶51 on the "oblique object rule"). The future auxiliary formed a main clause, the conditional auxiliary formed a dependent clause with a following apodosis.

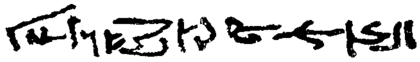
[3]Contrast English "When he stands up, I shall see him," in which the "when" clause corresponds to an Egyptian conditional clause (when = "if"), with English "When he is standing, I see him," in which the "when" clause corresponds to an Egyptian circumstantial clause (when = "while"). Contrast also "When he stood up, I saw him," in which the "when" clause corresponds to an Egyptian temporal clause (¶105).

E185:10/9 

ỉw≈f ḫpr ỉw pꜣy≈k ḥry ḥms r-ḥr pꜣ yr

'If (it happens that) your superior is sitting on the river(-bank)'

¶109 When the scribe wished to stress an adverbial element within the conditional clause, he often used the second tense. Either this was a second tense of the conditional or, more likely, it was a simple second tense and the conditional aspect was implied in the Demotic and is added in the English translation.

E186:19/25 

ỉỉr≈w tỉ n≈k ꜥq r-ḏbꜣ swg

'If it is for stupidity that you are given rations'

¶110 Unreal conditional clauses consisted of the irrealis particle *hwn-nꜣw* plus a main clause; no examples occur in ꜥOnchsheshonqy. Examples with the particle *h my* 'would that…!' plus a circumstantial clause can not technically be irrealis clauses since they often formed a main clause.

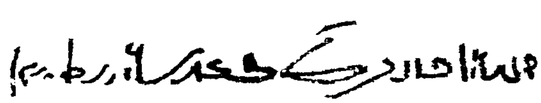
E187:10/22 

hmy ỉw šr ḥry pꜣ nt ỉr ḥry

'Would that it were the son of the superior who acted as superior!'

INFINITIVE OR *SḎM≈F* AS OBJECT OF A VERB

¶111 Many verbs could take another verb as their direct object. If the subject of the verb used as direct object was identical with the subject of the main verb, or if the subject of the verb used as direct object was unknown or unimportant, the infinitive was used as the direct object.

E188:4/15–16 

nꜣ mt.w(t) nt ỉw≈f rḫ mtr pꜣy≈f šr n-ỉm≈w

'the words with which he will be able to instruct his son'

If the scribe wished to indicate the subject of the verb used as direct object, he used the *sḏm≠f*. This usage was especially common after the verb *tỉ* 'to cause'.

E189:3/11



tỉ≠y tỉ≠w n≠k nt nb

'I made them give you everything.'

¶112 If the verb in the main clause was the infinitive form of *tỉ* and the predicate of the clause serving as its object was a *sḏm≠f*, the combination *tỉ* plus *sḏm≠f* formed the ancestor of the Coptic causative or compound infinitive. It meant 'to cause, have, make, let, permit someone (to) do something'.

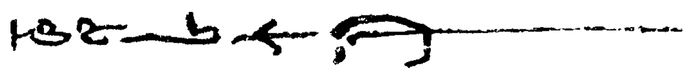
E190:14/23



m-ỉr tỉ smy rmṯ r-ỉr≠k 'Don't let a man bring suit against you.'

Such combinations could be freely formed from any verb and are to be distinguished from the small number of verbs whose causative was formed by prefixing *tỉ* (similar in function to old *s* - causatives).

E191:17/5



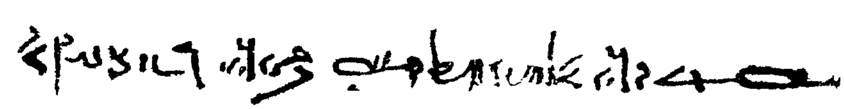
m-ỉr tỉ-ẖpr n≠k nkt 'Don't acquire wealth!'

In this latter case *tỉ* and the lexical verb formed one unit and might appear as an infinitive or *sḏm≠f*; e.g., *ẖr tỉ≠f tỉ-ẖpr n≠k ḥs.t ʿꜣ.t ỉwṯ≠w m-šs sp sn* 'It (normally) creates for you very great praise among them' (Magical 11/25–26, see Griffith and Thompson 1921). In the causative or compound infinitive, *tỉ* and the lexical item remained separate entities.

FINALIS

¶113 The finalis, which indicated the result which would occur from obeying a preceding imperative, consisted of the *sḏm≠f* of the verb *tỉ* with 1 s. subject and a following *sḏm≠f* as direct object of *tỉ*.

E192:17/26



ẖm bꜣ.t tỉ≠y ʿ(ꜣ)y tꜣy≠k šfʿ.t n ḥꜣ.ṯ rmṯ nb

'Be good tempered (lit., 'small of wrath') that your reputation may increase in the hearts of all men!'

But note, most examples in Demotic of *tỉ⸗y sḏm⸗f* retained the literal meaning '(in order that) I cause him to hear'.

PURPOSE CLAUSES

¶114 If the scribe wanted to indicate the subject of a purpose clause, a subjunctive *sḏm⸗f* was used;

E193:6/7 

šn r mt.t nb.t rḫ⸗k st

'Ask about everything in order that you may know (them)!'

otherwise, the scribe used preposition *r* plus the infinitive.

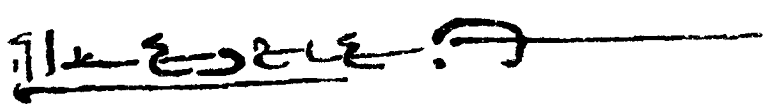
E194:3/22 

st sḏny r-ỉr⸗k r ḫtb.ṱ⸗k

'They are conspiring against you in order to kill you.'

CONJUNCTIVE

¶115 The conjunctive was written  *mtw* plus the subject (noun or suffix pronoun) plus an infinitive.[4] Note the spelling  *mtw⸗k*. The durative or oblique object rule did not apply to the infinitival predicate of the conjunctive. The conjunctive was used to indicate that the tense of the clause in which it is found was identical with the tense of the preceding clause. It was very common after the aorist, futures, imperatives,

E195:7/11 

m-ỉr šm n⸗k mtw⸗k ỉy ḥꜥ⸗k

'Don't go away and come back of yourself!' (i.e., 'of your own accord')

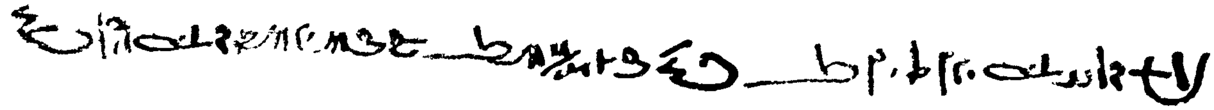
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[4]Note that second and third person examples were written identically with the independent pronoun (¶20) and the preposition *mtw⸗* (< *m-dỉ⸗* [¶43]).

¶115 Conjunctive (*cont.*)

and the conditional.

E196:15/7[5]

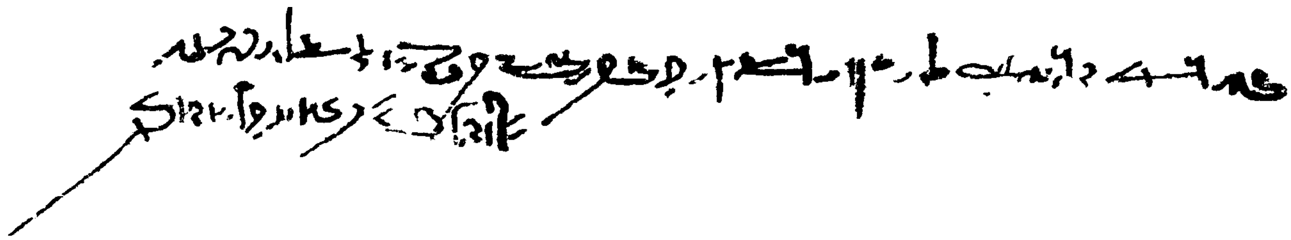


ỉn-nꜣ pꜣy⸗k ꜥw n rmṯ ḫpr mtw nkt ꜥšꜣy ḫpr n⸗k my ꜥ(ꜣ)y nꜣy⸗k sn.w mtw⸗k

'When you have matured, if much property has accrued to you, let your brothers share your wealth! [lit., 'Let your brothers be great with you!']'

¶116 Usually the subject of the conjunctive was identical with the subject of the preceding clause. If not, the conjunctive is often best translated as a result clause.

E197:17/23–24



my-sbꜣ pꜣy⸗k šr r sḫ r skꜣ r ḥm r grg r-ḏbꜣ wꜥ.t rnp.(t) sṯ Ḥꜥpy mtw⸗f gm pꜣ ḥw nꜣy-ỉr⸗f

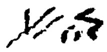
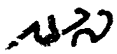
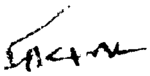
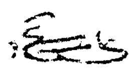
'Educate your son to write, to plow, to fowl, and to trap against a year of the withholding of the inundation so that he may find the profit of (i.e., profit by) what he has done!'

The conjunctive was not normally used after a past or present tense form. In some texts the conjunctive was occasionally used at the beginning of a sentence, where it is best translated as an injunctive future. Note that even these examples of the conjunctive were incompatible with the converters; one could not have, e.g., a circumstantial conjunctive.[6]

[5]Note the translation of the conditional clause as "when," the conjunctive clause as "if."

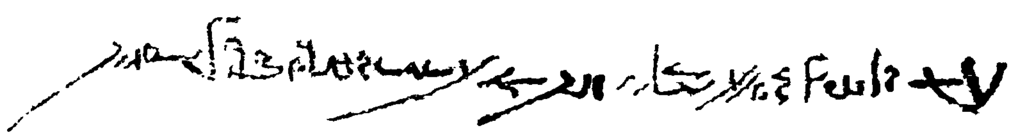
[6]Thus, any example of the construction circumstantial *ỉw* +, e.g., *mtwk* must involve the independent pronoun *mtwk*, not the conjunctive.

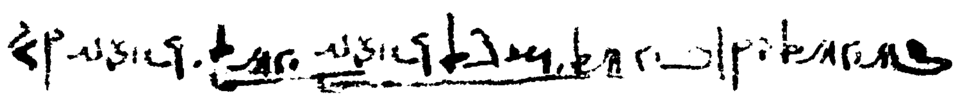
VOCABULARY

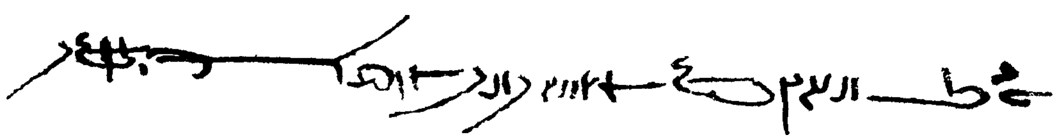
DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION	DEMOTIC		TRANSLATION
	*h̭ʿr*	to be angry		*ẖsy*	to be tired
	*swr*	to drink		*sš*	to despise
	*sṱ*	to turn (away)		*šʿṱ*	to cut (off)
	*gby*	to be weak		*ḏḏy*	to run
	*skꜣ*	to plow		*sḏny*	to conspire
	*šp*	to receive		*ḏwy*	to steal
	*tbḥ*	to request		*wḫꜣ*	to wish, desire
				*ʿn smy*	to report

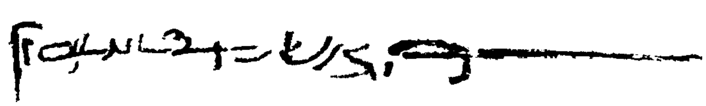
EXERCISES

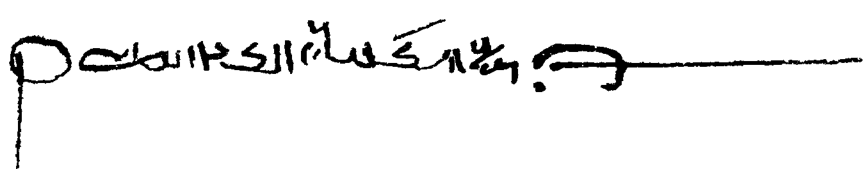
A. Transliterate and translate the following:

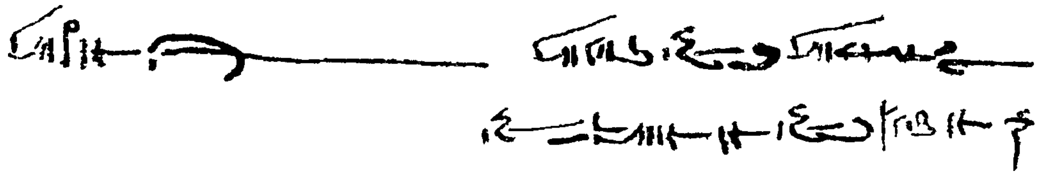
 1.

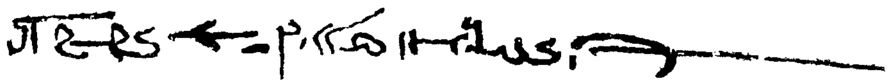
 2.

 3.

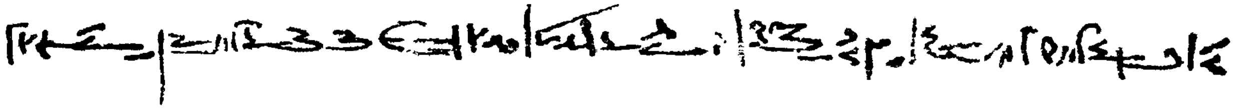
 4.

 5.


*6.


7.


8.


[7]9.


10.

B. Translate the following into Demotic:

1. When the thief stole the donkey, the man became very angry.
2. Will you drink the water?
3. If the child's family is far off and he writes (lit., sends) to them, they will cause him to listen to their voice(s).
4. When you report to your superior, don't delay!
5. He drank the prescription in order to get well (lit., to be sound).
6. The one who despises (some)thing greatly (lit., who is great of despising [some]thing), from it he (will) die.
7. Plow the field and go to town!
8. Would that my family stand with me!
9. When the child looked at the water, he saw a snake.
10. If you do your best and you fail, don't despise the one who is greater than you!

[7] *štq* means "prison".

LESSON 11

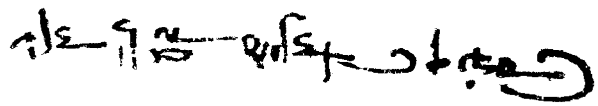
NEGATIVES

¶117 To each positive main clause form there was a corresponding negative form based on the negative particles *bw* and *bn*. Converted forms were formed regularly by prefixing the appropriate converter to the clause including the negative particle. All clause conjugations were negated with the negative verb *tm*.

PRESENT TENSE

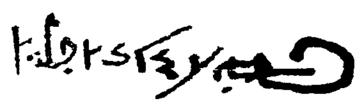
¶118 Present tense clauses containing *wn* 'to be' were negated by using *mn* 'not to be'.

E198:19/7[1]



mn šr Pr-ꜥꜣ grḥ 'There is no son of the king at night.'

E199:21/8[2]



mn lẖ gm ḥw 'No fool finds profit.'

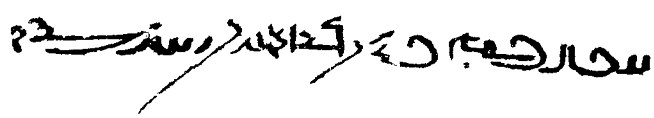
E200:17/5[3]



m-ỉr tỉ-ḫpr n≠k nkt ỉw mn mtw≠k pr-ḥḏ

'Don't acquire goods while you don't have a storehouse!'

E201:22/17[4]



pꜣ nt ỉw mn mtw≠f ỉr.ṯ≠f r pꜣ yr

'the one who doesn't have his eye on the river'

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[1]Negation of existence clause.

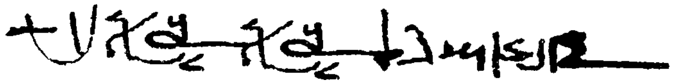
[2]Negation of present tense sentence with undetermined noun subject, using *wn/mn*.

[3]Negation of circumstantial *wn* + *mtw* indicating possession.

[4]Negation of relative *wn* + *mtw* indicating possession.

¶119 All other present tense clauses, including *sḏm≠f* s of adjective verbs and second tense constructions, were negated by prefixing the negative particle *bn* to the positive form and inserting *ỉn* after the adverbial "predicate."

E202:11/20



bn ỉỉr≠w ms kꜣ (n) kꜣ ỉn

'It is not (to) a bull that a bull is born.'

If the scribe wished to negate the second tense clause rather than the nexus between this clause and the following adverbial, the negative verb *tm* was used in the second tense clause.

E203:25/20



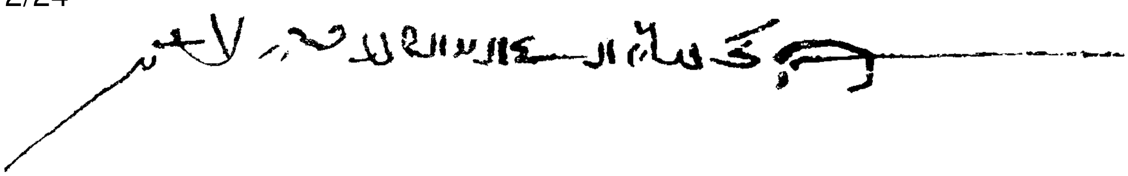
ỉỉr sḥm.t tm mr pꜣ nkt n pꜣy≠s hy ge ḥwṯ ỉỉr-ḥr ḥꜣ.ṯ≠s

'If about the property of her husband a woman does not care, another man is in her heart.'

Note that sentences with *bn...ỉn* are negative; sentences using *tm* are positive, although one component clause is negative.

¶120 Nominal sentences and cleft sentences were also negated using *bn...ỉn* (written *bn ỉw...ỉn* in ʿOnchsheshonqy).

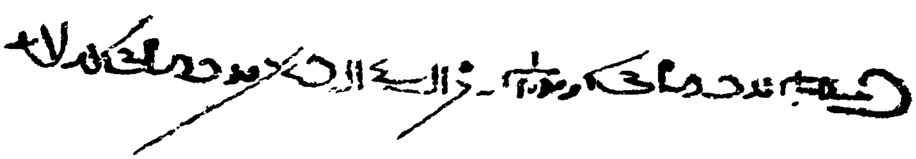
E204:12/24[5]



m-ỉr ḏ mt.t ỉw bn ỉw pꜣy≠s ṯꜣ ỉn pꜣy

'Don't say a thing whose time it is not!'

E205:21/9[6]



mn pꜣ nt hwš[7] *r pꜣ ʿꜣ r-r≠f ỉw bn ỉw mtwf pꜣ nt hwš.ṯ ỉn*

'There does not exist one who[7] (can) abuse his superior while he (himself) is not the one who is abused.'

[5]Circumstantial negative nominal sentence used as virtual relative.

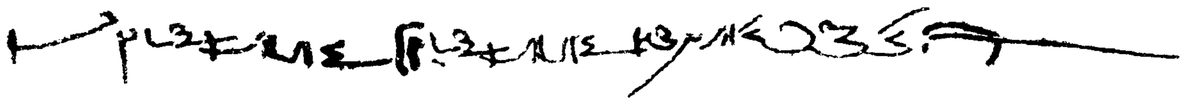
[6]Circumstantial negative cleft sentence.

[7]Note the treatment of the nominalized relative form with generic meaning as an indefinite noun subject, capable of serving as subject of an existence clause with *wn/mn*.

OTHER MAIN CLAUSES

¶121 The negative future was also formed with *bn*, but never had the following *ỉn*. Usually the negative future was formed by prefixing *bn* to the future *ỉw⸗f (r) sḏm*, although the preposition *r* was not written.[8]

E206:18/16



m-ỉr ḏ wn mtw⸗y pꜣy nkt bn ỉw⸗y šms nṯr bn ỉw⸗y šms rmṯ ꜥn

'Don't say, "I have this property. I will not follow (or, 'serve') god and I will not follow man, either."'

ꜥOnchsheshonqy also has examples of *bn ỉw* plus the *sḏm⸗f* as negative future.

E207:10/7

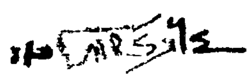


ḏrp⸗k r rṯ̂⸗k n ꜥ(.wy) n rmṯ ꜥꜣ bn ỉw ḏrp⸗k r ls⸗k

'You may stumble with your feet in the house of a great man; you should not stumble with your tongue.'

¶122 The negative past was written *bn-pw* plus subject plus infinitive.[9]

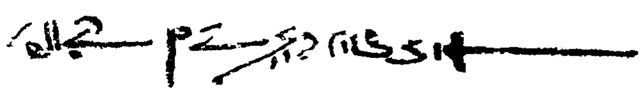
E208:4/2–3



bn-pw⸗f ḏ n⸗y wꜣḥ 'He did not tell me an answer.'

¶123 With all verbs other than the verb *rḫ* 'to know', the negative aorist was written *bw-ỉr* plus subject plus infinitive.

E209:22/15



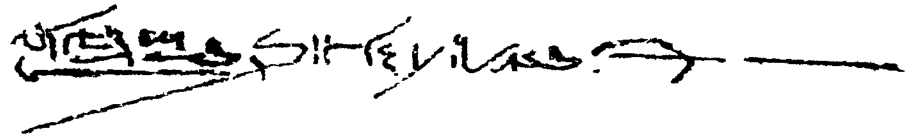
bw-ỉr msḥ ṯ rmṯ n tmy

'A crocodile cannot seize a local man.'

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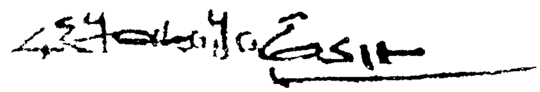
[8] When the subject of the clause was the 2 masculine pronoun *.k*, the scribe might write *bn ỉw⸗k* using , the freestanding form of *ỉw*, before , the *ỉw⸗k* ligature.

[9] For an example of metathesis of the subject and infinitive, see E211 in n. 11, below.

E210:7/4 

m-ỉr mtr lh̭ bw-ỉr=f msṱ=k
'Don't instruct a fool lest[10] he hate you!'

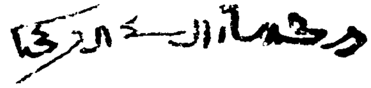
With *rḫ* the negative aorist was written *bw-ỉr-rḫ* plus subject.[11]

E212:12/5 

bw-ỉr-rḫ=k ꜥ pꜣy=k ꜥḥꜥ
'You don't know the extent of your lifetime.'

¶124 The negative perfect was written  *bw-ỉr-tw* plus subject (suffix pronoun if pronominal) plus infinitive.

¶125 The circumstantial, relative, and imperfect converters could be prefixed to the forms with the negative particles.

E213:10/13[12] 

hmy ỉw bn ỉw=f mwt 'Would that he (will) not die!'

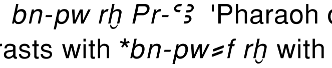
E214:7/5[13] 

m-ỉr mtr pꜣ nt ỉw bn ỉw=f sḏm n=k
'Don't instruct the one who will not listen to you!'

---

[10]For the translation 'lest', see below, ¶126.

[11]This form with *rḫ* has been explained by some as metathesis of the subject and infinitive, as is seen occasionally with noun subjects.

E211:3/7 

bn-pw rḫ Pr-ꜥꜣ 'Pharaoh did not know how (to ...).' (or, 'was unable [to]')
Bn-pw rḫ N here contrasts with **bn-pw=f rḫ* with pronominal subject; similarly, **bn ỉw rḫ* N 'N will not know' contrasts with **bn ỉw=f rḫ* 'He will not know'.

Others explain *bw-ỉr rḫ* as an expanded (phonetic) writing of a non-periphrastic *sḏm=f* (Late Egyptian *bw rḫ=k* > Demotic *bw ỉr-rḫ=k* > Coptic ⲙⲉϣⲁⲕ) where *ỉr-rḫ* > ⲉϣ in contrast to the infinitive form *rḫ* > ϣ.

[12]Circumstantial negative future after *hmy*.

[13]Nominalized relative of negative future.

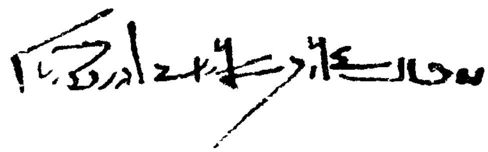
E215:15/18[14]



m-ỉr ḏ šm⸗y n tȝy mt.t ỉw bn-pw⸗k šm n-ỉm⸗s

'Don't say, "I went into this matter," without having (lit., 'while you haven't') gone into it!'

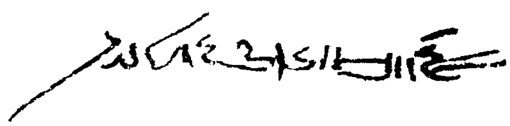
E216:12/4[15]



pȝ nt ỉw bn-pw⸗f šp s.(t)-ḏbȝ

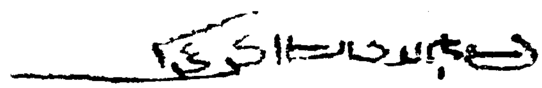
'one who has not experienced distress'

E217:7/18[16]



bȝk ỉw bw-ỉr⸗w mḫ̭y.ṯ̭⸗f 'a servant who is not beaten'

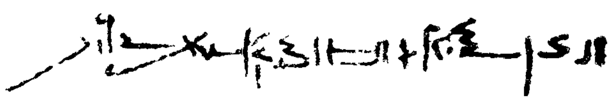
E218:8/8[17]



mn pȝ nt ỉw bw-ỉr⸗f mwt

'One who does not die does not exist.'

E219:19/23[18]



ỉỉr ỉrp ꜥw ỉw bw-ỉr-tw⸗w glp⸗f

'As long as it hasn't been opened, wine matures.'

¶126 The range of meaning of the negative forms coincides generally with that of the corresponding positive form. When a negative aorist follows an imperative, it may often be translated 'lest' (as above, E210). Note that the negative perfect occurred most frequently after the circumstantial converter, in which case the clause can be translated 'before something happened/had happened'.

¶127 For the negative imperative and negative optative, see lesson 7.

[14]Circumstantial negative past.

[15]Nominalized relative of negative past.

[16]Circumstantial negative aorist.

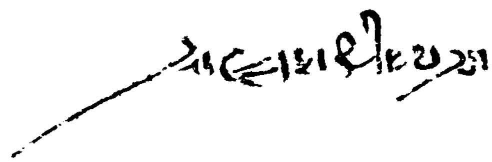
[17]Relative of negative aorist.

[18]Circumstantial negative perfect.

CLAUSE CONJUGATIONS

¶128 Clause conjugations were negated by inserting the negative verb *tm* in the infinitive position and appending the infinitive of the lexical verb to it.

E220:24/11[19]

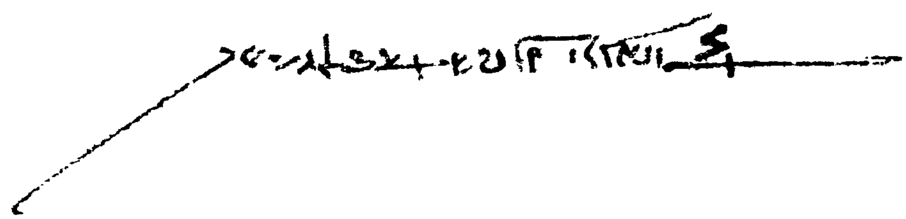


ỉw=f tm šn ỉw=w šʿṱ=f

'If he doesn't inspect, it (his wages) will be cut off.'

When the subject was a noun, metathesis of the negative verb *tm* and the noun subject might occur; e.g., **ỉn-nꜣ tm* N 'if N does not…'. Nominally used infinitives are also negated with *tm*.

E221:20/22[20]



ʿse.t n pr tm ḥms n-ỉm=f

'The waste of a house is not living in it.'

See above, ¶119, for the negation of second tense clauses, including the negation with *tm*.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

¶129 It has been claimed that there is a sharp break between Demotic and Coptic, that Demotic is a late, dead end development from Late Egyptian. However, there are as many connections between Demotic and Coptic as between Late Egyptian and Demotic. There were breaks in each case, and the adoption of a radical new script for Coptic emphasizes the break between Demotic and Coptic. However, Demotic should be seen as part of the main line of development of the Egyptian language. For a summary of the historical development of the Egyptian verbal system, from Late Egyptian through Demotic into Coptic, see the following table.[21]

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[19] Negative conditional.

[20] Here *tm* is being used to negate an infinitive serving as the second noun in a nominal sentence from which the copula pronoun has been omitted (see ¶25 and E32).

[21] For a slightly fuller discussion of this question, see Johnson (1976: 298–301). Note, also, e.g., the differences between types of nominal sentences in Late Egyptian and Demotic.

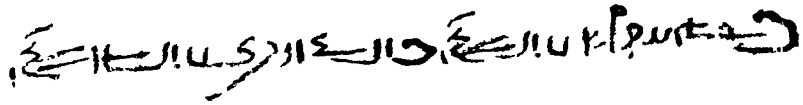
THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE EGYPTIAN VERBAL SYSTEM

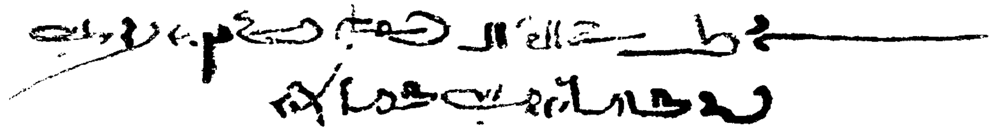
MEANING	LATE EGYPTIAN	DEMOTIC	COPTIC
Present	*tw⸗y (ḥr) sḏm*	*tw⸗y sḏm*	ϯⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Circumstantial Present	*ỉw⸗y rdỉ.k*	*ỉw⸗y sḏm*	ⲉϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Relative Present	*nty tw⸗y sḏm*	*nt ỉw⸗y sḏm*	ⲉϯⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Second Present	*ỉỉr⸗f sḏm*	*ỉỉr⸗f sḏm*	ⲉϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Negative Present	*bn tw⸗y (ḥr) sḏm (ỉwnꜣ)*	*bn tw⸗y sḏm ỉn*	(ⲛ̄)ϯⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄...ⲁⲛ
Circumstantial Negative Present	*ỉw bn tw⸗y (ḥr) sḏm (ỉwnꜣ)*	*ỉw bn tw⸗y sḏm ỉn*	ⲉⲛϯⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄...ⲁⲛ
Progressive	*tw⸗y m nꜥy r sḏm*	*tw⸗y nꜣ sḏm*	ϯⲛⲁⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Aorist	*ḫr sḏm⸗f*	*ḫr sḏm⸗f* *ḫr ỉr⸗f sḏm*	 ϣⲁϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Negative Aorist	*bw ỉr⸗f sḏm*	*bw ỉr⸗f sḏm*	ⲙⲉϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Future	*ỉw⸗f r sḏm*	*ỉw⸗f (r) sḏm*	ⲉϥⲉⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Negative Future	*bn ỉw⸗f (r) sḏm*	*bn ỉw⸗f sḏm*	ⲛ̄ⲛⲉϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Past	*sḏm⸗f*	*sḏm⸗f* *ỉr⸗f sḏm*	 ⲁϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Second Past	*ỉỉr⸗f sḏm*	*ỉỉr⸗f sḏm*	ⲛ̄ⲧⲁϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Negative Past	*bw-pw⸗f sḏm*	*bn-pw⸗f sḏm*	ⲙ̄ⲡⲉϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Perfect	*sḏm⸗f*	*wꜣḥ⸗f sḏm*	ⲁϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄ early ϩⲁϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Negative Perfect	*bw-ỉrt⸗f sḏm*	*bw-ỉr-tw⸗f sḏm*	ⲙ̄ⲡⲁⲧϥ̄ⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Optative	*ỉmỉ sḏm⸗f*	*(my) sḏm⸗f* *my ỉr⸗f sḏm*	 ⲙⲁⲣⲉϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Negative Optative	*m-dyt sḏm⸗f*	*m-ỉr tỉ sḏm⸗f* *m-ỉr tỉ ỉr⸗f sḏm*	 ⲙ̄ⲡⲣ̄ⲧⲣⲉϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Terminative	*šꜥꜣ ỉỉrt⸗f sḏm*	*šꜥ-(m)tw⸗f sḏm*	ϣⲁ(ⲛ)ⲧϥ̄ⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Temporal	*m-ḏr sḏm⸗f*	*(n-)ḏr.(t) sḏm⸗f*	ⲛ̄ⲧⲉⲣⲉϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Conditional	*ỉr ỉw⸗f ḫr sḏm*	*ỉw⸗f sḏm* *ỉn-nꜣ* Noun *sḏm*	ⲉϥϣⲁⲛⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Negative Conditional	*ỉr ỉw⸗f ḫr tm sḏm*	*ỉw⸗f tm sḏm*	ⲉϥⲧⲙ̄ⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Irrealis	*h(ꜣ)n(ꜣ) wn*	*hwn-nꜣw*	ⲉⲛⲉ
Causative Infinitive	*dỉ sḏm⸗f*	*tỉ sḏm⸗f* *tỉ ỉr⸗f sḏm*	 ⲧⲣⲉϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Finalis		*tỉ⸗y sḏm⸗f* *tỉ⸗y ỉr⸗f sḏm*	 ⲧⲁⲣⲉϥⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Conjunctive	*mtw⸗f sḏm*	*mtw⸗f sḏm*	ⲛϥ̄ⲥⲱⲧⲙ̄
Purpose Clause	*r* + infinitive (subjunctive) *sḏm⸗f*	*r* + infinitive (subjunctive) *sḏm⸗f*	ⲉ + infinitive

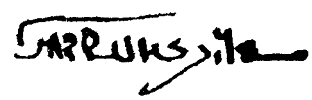
EXERCISES

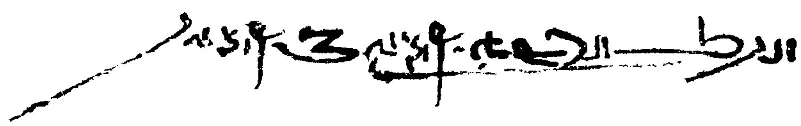
A. Transliterate and translate the following:

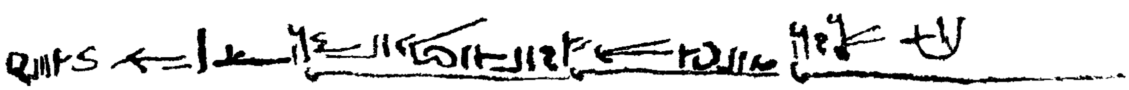
 1.

 2.

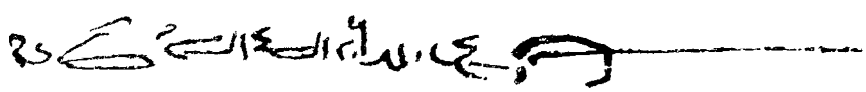
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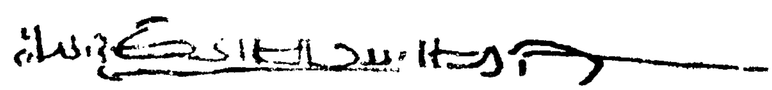
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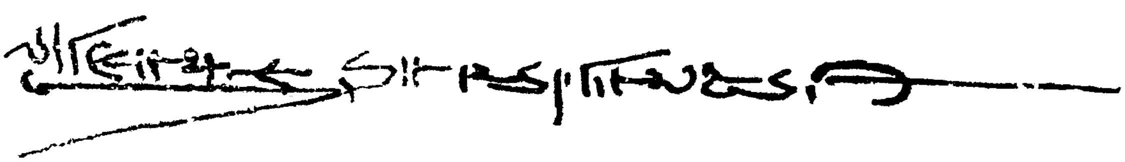
 5.

 6.

 7.

 8.

 9.

 10.

B. Translate the following into Demotic:

1. While you had nothing at all (lit., of the earth), you were brought to the palace.
2. (A) man does not love the one whom he hates (or, who hates him).
3. because I did not kill (a) man
4. Don't hate him (*r-ḥr≠f*) while you don't know (a) thing about (lit., belonging to) him!
5. Don't live in a house in which those (people/matters) of property will not reach you!
6. Don't do (a) thing about which you haven't first questioned!
7. Don't say, "I hate my superior. I will not serve/follow him."
8. No rich man or poor man exists at night.
9. Nothing happens except that which god will command.
10. Don't take (*i͗r*) to yourself a woman whose husband is alive lest he become your enemy (lit., act for you as fighting companion)!

DEMOTIC INDEX

Demotic Index

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Note abbreviations: ¶ = Paragraph; E = Example;
X = Exercise (A and B refer to the two parts of the exercises)

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